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Etats Du Grand-Seigneur En Asie, Empire De Perse, Pays Des Usbecs, Arabie et Egypte . .. 1753

Stock#: 58707
Map Maker: de Vaugondy
Date: 1753
Place: Paris
Color: Outline Color
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 19 inches
Price: Not Available



Description:

Detailed map of the Ottoman Empire, published by De Vaugondy in Paris.

The map extends to the Black Sea, Georgia, the Caspian, Uzbekistan, The Indian Ocean, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Red Sea.

The Ottoman Empire was a vast and powerful state that at its height stretched from Eastern Europe to North Africa and included much of the Middle East. In the middle of the 18th century, the empire was facing a number of challenges, both internal and external.

One of the major internal challenges facing the Ottoman Empire at this time was a decline in central authority. The Ottoman sultans had traditionally exercised a great deal of power, but by the mid-18th century, they had become increasingly weakened and isolated. The empire was also facing a crisis of succession, with a number of rival factions vying for control. This political instability had a number of negative consequences, including a decline in the military and economic power of the empire.

Externally, the Ottoman Empire was also facing a number of challenges. The empire was at war with a number of European powers, including Russia and Austria, and was also under threat from the expanding Russian Empire. In addition, the Ottoman Empire was facing a number of rebellions and uprisings within its own borders, as various ethnic and religious groups sought greater autonomy or independence.



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Asia Minor is showcased as a major geographical area, the nerve center of the Ottoman Empire or the Grand Seigneur. This region's representation is unmistakable, signaling its central role in the political and cultural life of the empire.

Below Asia Minor lies the Arabian Peninsula, a land of stark contrasts – from fertile coastlines to arid desert interiors. The peninsula's importance in the map underscores its geostrategic significance, given its location between Africa, Asia, and Europe. The Persian Empire, which covers modern Iran and parts of neighboring countries, is meticulously delineated. It highlights the historical presence of this significant regional power. To the east, the map stretches to include Afghanistan and Usbekistan, areas that played critical roles in the Silk Road and other historical trade routes.

Egypt, a cradle of civilization, is depicted as a thin strip of habitation along the Nile. The inclusion of Cyprus further emphasizes the importance of the Mediterranean world in this geographical context. A captivating aspect of the map is the Red Sea's representation, a critical waterway that had been a vital link between the East and the West.

The map's decorative aspect features an allegorical title cartouche, presenting a robed leader sitting on a cushion, possibly an Ottoman sultan, a Persian shah, or an Arab sheikh. The smoking object in front of him could be an incense burner, a common feature in Middle Eastern and Asian cultures, symbolizing hospitality and respect. The figure sits under a canopy topped by a golden crescent, an emblem often associated with Islamic cultures.

Detailed Condition:

Extensive manuscript annotations.