

# map of world in 1600

## Exploring the Map of the World in 1600: A Historical Perspective

**Map of world in 1600** offers a fascinating glimpse into the geographical understanding of the early 17th century. During this period, European explorers and cartographers were actively expanding their knowledge of the world's continents, oceans, and significant landmarks. Although the map was far from the precise representation we see today, it reflected a mix of discovery, myth, and evolving science. Understanding the map of the world in 1600 provides insight into the world-view of early modern societies, their exploration ambitions, and the limitations of contemporary cartography.

## The Context of World Mapping in 1600

### The Age of Exploration and Its Impact on World Maps

By 1600, the Age of Exploration had been underway for over a century. European powers such as Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands had launched voyages that drastically expanded the known world. These expeditions contributed to the creation of new maps, often based on a mixture of firsthand accounts, reports from explorers, and earlier, often inaccurate, medieval maps.

Key factors influencing the maps of 1600 include:

- The discovery of new lands in the Americas, Asia, and Africa.
- The development of more accurate navigation tools like the astrolabe, compass, and later, the sextant.
- The influence of emerging scientific thought and the desire for territorial claims.

### Limitations of 1600 Cartography

Despite advancements, maps of this period still contained inaccuracies:

- Uncharted regions and incomplete coastlines.
- Misplaced or exaggerated landmasses.
- Myths and legends incorporated into geographic depictions, such as the Northwest Passage or mythical islands.
- Limited understanding of the interior geography of continents, especially Africa and Asia.

# Major Features of the World Map in 1600

## Europe and the Mediterranean

Europe was relatively well-mapped, reflecting centuries of geographic knowledge:

- The Mediterranean Sea was well understood, with clear coastlines of Southern Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.
- The British Isles, Iberian Peninsula, and Italy appeared accurately, though some distortions remained.
- The Holy Roman Empire, France, and Spain featured prominently on the maps, often with detailed coastlines.

## The Americas in 1600

By 1600, the New World was partially mapped but still incomplete:

- North America was depicted with varying degrees of accuracy; the eastern coastlines were known but often exaggerated or distorted.
- The interior of North America remained largely unexplored and speculative, often filled with mythical lakes, rivers, and tribes.
- South America was better mapped, especially the eastern coast, thanks to Portuguese and Spanish explorers.
- The Amazon River and Andes Mountains were recognized features, but details about interior regions were sparse.

## Africa and Asia

Africa's coastline was relatively well charted, but interior regions remained a mystery:

- The Sahara Desert was known as a vast, inhospitable region.
- The Nile River and the Great Lakes were recognizable features.
- In Asia, India was accurately depicted in many maps, with the Indian subcontinent prominent.
- Southeast Asia and the Far East, such as China and Japan, appeared with varying degrees of accuracy, often influenced by Western reports and myth.

## Oceans and Unknown Lands

The oceans remained the least understood parts of the map:

- The Pacific Ocean was largely speculative, with many islands and landmasses added based on myths and unverified reports.
- The Arctic and Antarctic regions were either poorly mapped or entirely unknown.
- Many regions appeared with mythical names and features, such as Terra Incognita or the Northwest Passage.

# **Notable Maps of the World in 1600**

## **The Mercator Projection**

- Created by Gerardus Mercator in 1569, this projection was revolutionary for navigation.
- It accurately represented angles and directions, making it invaluable for sea travel.
- The map distorted sizes, especially near the poles, but it became the standard for maritime navigation.

## **The Ortelius World Map**

- Abraham Ortelius published "Typus Orbis Terrarum" in 1590, one of the most influential world maps of the era.
- It portrayed the world with detailed coastlines and included mythical and real lands.
- It reflected the most current knowledge of the late 16th century and influenced cartography for decades.

## **The Blaeu World Map**

- Johannes Blaeu, a Dutch cartographer, created detailed maps in the early 17th century.
- His world maps depicted the new discoveries and included ornate illustrations and decorative elements.

# **The Significance of the 1600 World Map in History**

## **Impacts on Exploration and Colonization**

The maps produced around 1600 guided explorers and colonizers:

- They helped navigators plan routes across uncharted waters.
- The depiction of new lands fueled European ambitions for colonization and resource extraction.
- Accurate maps were also used for territorial disputes and diplomatic negotiations.

## **Influence on Science and Geography**

- The maps reflected growing scientific understanding, though still imperfect.
- They showcased the transition from medieval to modern cartography.
- The inclusion of mythic regions demonstrates the blending of science and legend.

## Legacy of 1600 Maps

- Many of the map elements from this period persisted into later centuries.
- They serve as historical documents, illustrating the worldview and knowledge limitations of the time.
- Modern historians and geographers study these maps to understand the evolution of geographic knowledge.

## Conclusion: The Evolution of World Maps from 1600 to Today

The map of the world in 1600 stands as a testament to human curiosity and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. While it was riddled with inaccuracies and myths, it marked a significant step forward from the medieval mappa mundi and laid the groundwork for future cartography. Over the centuries, technological advances, scientific discoveries, and international exploration have transformed our understanding of the world, leading to the accurate, detailed maps we rely on today. Exploring the maps of 1600 not only enriches our historical perspective but also highlights the enduring human spirit of discovery.

## Additional Resources for Exploring 1600 World Maps

- Museums with collections of historical maps (e.g., The British Museum, The Library of Congress)
- Digital archives of old maps and cartographic works
- Books on the history of cartography and exploration
- Documentaries and online courses about the Age of Discovery

By studying these early maps, enthusiasts and scholars alike can appreciate the remarkable progress humanity has made in charting our world—a journey that continues to this day.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the key features of the world map in 1600?

The 1600 world map primarily depicted known landmasses such as Europe, Asia, Africa, and parts of the Americas, with many regions still inaccurately shaped or proportioned. It often included decorative elements like sea monsters and ships, reflecting the European Age of Exploration.

## **How accurate was the world map in 1600 compared to modern maps?**

The 1600 world map was largely inaccurate by modern standards, with distortions in continent sizes, incomplete landmass representations, and limited knowledge of the interior regions. Exploration was ongoing, and cartographers relied on travelers' accounts and incomplete data.

## **Which regions were most accurately depicted on the 1600 world map?**

Europe was the most accurately depicted region in 1600, reflecting extensive exploration and mapping. Parts of Asia and North Africa were also relatively well known, while the Americas and Oceania were less accurately represented.

## **What role did European explorers play in shaping maps of the world in 1600?**

European explorers like Magellan, Vasco da Gama, and others contributed vital information about new lands, which was incorporated into maps. Their voyages expanded geographical knowledge and influenced the design of world maps during that period.

## **What were common artistic features found on maps of 1600?**

Maps of 1600 often featured elaborate illustrations, including sea monsters, mythical creatures, ships, and decorative cartouches, reflecting both artistic expression and the limited geographic knowledge of the time.

## **How did the age of exploration influence the world map of 1600?**

The age of exploration introduced new territories and coastlines to maps, leading to more detailed coastlines and the inclusion of newly discovered lands. It also spurred competition among nations to produce more accurate and comprehensive maps.

## **Are there any surviving original maps from 1600, and where can they be viewed?**

Yes, several original maps from 1600 exist in museum collections and archives, such as the British Library and the Library of Congress. They are preserved as historical artifacts and occasionally displayed in exhibitions.

## **How did the knowledge of the Pacific Ocean and**

## Australia appear on 1600 maps?

In 1600, the Pacific Ocean was known but not fully mapped, and Australia was largely unknown or depicted inaccurately, often labeled as Terra Australis Incognita or with speculative landmasses.

## What were the main sources of geographic information used by cartographers in 1600?

Cartographers relied on explorers' journals, nautical charts, traveler accounts, and earlier maps. They also incorporated legends, myths, and sometimes speculative geography to fill gaps in knowledge.

## How did the map of the world in 1600 influence navigation and exploration?

Maps from 1600 were crucial for navigation, guiding ships on long voyages. They helped explorers plan routes, identify potential landfalls, and understand the general geography of uncharted regions, despite their inaccuracies.

## Additional Resources

Map of World in 1600: A Window into a Changing Globe

Map of world in 1600—these historical cartographic artifacts offer a fascinating glimpse into the world's geographical understanding at the dawn of the 17th century. As explorers expanded the boundaries of known lands, mapmakers endeavored to chart the emerging world, blending tradition, myth, and empirical observation. The maps produced during this period reveal not only the geographic knowledge of the era but also the cultural, political, and technological influences shaping perceptions of the globe. This article explores the intricate details of world maps circa 1600, examining their historical context, cartographic features, regional representations, and lasting legacy.

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The Historical Context of World Maps in 1600

The Age of Discovery and Its Impact

By 1600, the world was undergoing a profound transformation driven by the Age of Discovery. European explorers, including Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan, and Sir Francis Drake, had charted new sea routes and uncovered previously unknown lands. The Portuguese and Spanish empires had established vast colonial networks, fostering a surge in geographic knowledge and map production.

This era marked the transition from medieval mappa mundi—often religious or symbolic in nature—to more empirical and navigationally functional maps. The dissemination of new information prompted cartographers to revisit, revise, and expand their representations of

the world.

## Technological Advances and Cartographic Techniques

Several technological and methodological advances contributed to the evolving accuracy of maps:

- The Compass and Sextant: Improved navigation tools allowed sailors to determine their positions more precisely.
- Printing Press: The advent of printing facilitated the wider dissemination of maps, making geographic knowledge accessible beyond scholarly circles.
- Printing of Atlases and Globes: Collecting and compiling geographic data into atlases and globes became increasingly popular, standardizing information and facilitating comparison.

Despite these advances, the maps of 1600 still exhibited inaccuracies and misconceptions, particularly regarding distant lands, coastlines, and interior regions.

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## Features of World Maps in 1600

### Cartographic Style and Aesthetics

Maps of this period often combined artistic embellishments with geographic information. They featured elaborate border decorations, sea monsters, ships, compass roses, and mythological figures. These artistic elements served both decorative and didactic purposes, reflecting the beliefs and stories of the time.

The color palette was rich, with bright inks highlighting political boundaries and regions. Mapmakers often personalized their work with coats of arms, dedicatory inscriptions, and symbolic motifs.

### Projection and Scale

While the concept of projection was still developing, many maps employed cylindrical or pseudocylindrical projections. The scale varied greatly, with some maps offering broad overviews of the entire world, and others focusing on specific regions such as Europe, Asia, Africa, or the Americas.

It's important to note that the distortions inherent in early projections meant that the sizes and shapes of landmasses were often inaccurate, especially near the poles and in uncharted territories.

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## Regional Representations and Notable Maps

### Europe: The Center of the World

European maps of 1600 frequently depicted the continent as the center of the world—a reflection of Eurocentrism prevalent in cartography. Notable features include:

- The inclusion of detailed coastlines of Western Europe.
- Mythical islands and regions in the Atlantic, such as the legendary Island of Brasil or the Isles of the Blessed.
- Depictions of the T-O maps, a traditional medieval style, gradually giving way to more accurate representations.

### The Americas: A New World Emerges

By 1600, the Americas were well documented, yet still incomplete and filled with myths:

- The continent was represented with increasing accuracy along its coasts, thanks to explorers like Columbus and Magellan.
- The Mississippi River was known but often misrepresented in length and course.
- The concept of a vast "New World" was emerging, with some maps depicting it as a separate landmass from Asia, while others still linked it via speculative land bridges.

### Africa: The Gateway to the Orient

African geography was relatively well understood, but interior regions remained largely speculative:

- The Nile River and its delta were accurately depicted.
- The Sahara Desert was recognized as a vast, inhospitable barrier.
- The East African coast was mapped with increasing detail, reflecting Portuguese exploration.

### Asia: The Cultural and Economic Hub

Maps emphasized Asia's importance, especially India and China, as centers of trade and wealth:

- The Mughal Empire and the Ming Dynasty were depicted, albeit with limited accuracy.
- The Silk Road was often illustrated symbolically rather than geographically.
- Southeast Asia and the Indonesian Archipelago appeared on maps, reflecting the spice trade.

### The Unknown and Mythical Lands

Despite advancements, large parts of the world remained mysterious:

- Terra incognita—areas labeled as "unknown" or "here be dragons"—highlight the limits of contemporary knowledge.
- Mythical lands like El Dorado (the legendary city of gold) and the Northwest Passage appeared on many maps, fueling European exploration efforts.

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### Prominent Mapmakers and Their Contributions

Abraham Ortelius

Often regarded as the father of modern cartography, Ortelius published *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* in 1570, which became the first modern atlas. His maps of 1600 reflected the accumulated geographic knowledge and set standards for accuracy and aesthetics.

### Jodocus Hondius

A Flemish engraver and cartographer, Hondius produced detailed world maps, including the famous Hondius World Map. His work incorporated recent discoveries and innovative cartographic techniques.

### Gerardus Mercator

While Mercator's famous projection was introduced in 1569, his influence persisted into 1600, aiding sailors in navigation and map-making. His maps combined scientific rigor with artistic flourish.

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## The Legacy and Influence of 1600 World Maps

### A Reflection of Cultural Perspectives

Maps of 1600 serve as cultural artifacts, revealing European perceptions of the world, their priorities, and their myths. They often placed Europe at the center, emphasizing exploration as a symbol of dominance and curiosity.

### Foundations for Future Cartography

The maps created during this period laid groundwork for more accurate and detailed representations. They prompted ongoing debates about geography, navigation, and the nature of knowledge.

### Educational and Inspirational Value

These maps inspired explorers, merchants, and scholars, fueling ambitions to discover new lands, establish trade routes, and understand the world's complexities.

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## Conclusion

The map of the world in 1600 encapsulates a pivotal moment in human history—a blend of discovery, myth, artistry, and burgeoning scientific inquiry. While far from perfect, these maps symbolize humanity's relentless quest to understand our planet. They serve as both historical documents and artistic masterpieces, reminding us of the evolving nature of knowledge and the enduring spirit of exploration. As we look back at these cartographic treasures, we gain insight not only into geography but also into the cultural and technological currents that shaped our modern worldview.

## Map Of World In 1600

**map of world in 1600: List of Maps of the World** New York Public Library, 1904

**map of world in 1600:** *Mapping an Atlantic World, circa 1500* Alida C. Metcalf, 2020-10-13

How did intricately detailed sixteenth-century maps reveal the start of the Atlantic World? Beginning around 1500, in the decades following Columbus's voyages, the Atlantic Ocean moved from the periphery to the center on European world maps. This brief but highly significant moment in early modern European history marks not only a paradigm shift in how the world was mapped but also the opening of what historians call the Atlantic World. But how did sixteenth-century chartmakers and mapmakers begin to conceptualize—and present to the public—an interconnected Atlantic World that was open and navigable, in comparison to the mysterious ocean that had blocked off the Western hemisphere before Columbus's exploration? In *Mapping an Atlantic World, circa 1500*, Alida C. Metcalf argues that the earliest surviving maps from this era, which depict trade, colonization, evangelism, and the movement of peoples, reveal powerful and persuasive arguments about the possibility of an interconnected Atlantic World. Blending scholarship from two fields, historical cartography and Atlantic history, Metcalf explains why Renaissance cosmographers first incorporated sailing charts into their maps and began to reject classical models for mapping the world. Combined with the new placement of the Atlantic, the visual imagery on Atlantic maps—which featured decorative compass roses, animals, landscapes, and native peoples—communicated the accessibility of distant places with valuable commodities. Even though individual maps became outdated quickly, Metcalf reveals, new mapmakers copied their imagery, which then repeated on map after map. Individual maps might fall out of date, be lost, discarded, or forgotten, but their geographic and visual design promoted a new way of seeing the world, with an interconnected Atlantic World at its center. Describing the negotiation that took place between a small cadre of explorers and a wider class of cartographers, chartmakers, cosmographers, and artists, Metcalf shows how exploration informed mapmaking and vice versa. Recognizing early modern cartographers as significant agents in the intellectual history of the Atlantic, *Mapping an Atlantic World, circa 1500* includes around 50 beautiful and illuminating historical maps.

**map of world in 1600: A History of the World in Twelve Maps** Jerry Brotton, 2012-09-06

'Fascinating, panoramic, wonderful' Tom Holland A magical book which explores how the world was seen at twelve points in history, through twelve extraordinary maps and the minds of those who made them What you see depends on where - and when - you are looking from. As Jerry Brotton's enthralling book shows, maps have shaped our view of the world throughout history, and are themselves shaped by the ideas, prejudices, systems of power and creativity of their age. Brotton examines twelve world maps from global history - from the mystical representations of ancient civilizations and the fourteenth-century Mappamundi to the satellite-derived imagery of today - to show how, by reading them, we can better understand the worlds that produced them. You will not look at a map in quite the same way again. 'The intellectual background to these images is conveyed with beguiling erudition ... maps prove to be less conveyors of information than theatrical performances ... There is nothing more subversive than a map' Andrew Linklater, *Spectator* 'Fascinating and thought-provoking ... An achievement of evocation' Anthony Sattin, *Literary Review* 'Elegant, powerfully argued' David Horspool, *Guardian*, Books of the Year 'Rich and adventurous' John Carey, *Sunday Times* 'A highly rewarding study ... you will emerge with a detailed insight into how maps reflect, expose and manipulate the societies in which they are made' Simon Garfield, *Mail on Sunday*

**map of world in 1600: Apocalyptic Cartography** Chet Van Duzer, Ilya Dines, 2015-11-24 In

*Apocalyptic Cartography: Thematic Maps and the End of the World in a Fifteenth-Century Manuscript*, Chet Van Duzer and Ilya Dines analyse Huntington Library HM 83, an unstudied manuscript produced in Lübeck, Germany. The manuscript contains a rich collection of world maps produced by an anonymous but strikingly original cartographer. These include one of the earliest

programs of thematic maps, and a remarkable series of maps that illustrate the transformations that the world was supposed to undergo during the Apocalypse. The authors supply detailed discussion of the maps and transcriptions and translations of the Latin texts that explain the maps. Copies of the maps in a fifteenth-century manuscript in Wolfenbüttel prove that this unusual work did circulate. A brief article about this book on the website of National Geographic can be found [here](#).

**map of world in 1600: Atlas of World History** Patrick Karl O'Brien, Patrick O'Brien, 2002 Synthesizing exceptional cartography and impeccable scholarship, this edition traces 12,000 years of history with 450 maps and over 200,000 words of text. 200 illustrations.

**map of world in 1600: World Directory of Map Collections** Olivier Loiseaux, Section of Geography and Map Libraries, 2012-01-02 No detailed description available for World Directory of Map Collections.

**map of world in 1600: World-maps for Finding the Direction and Distance to Mecca** David King, 2021-09-06 Two remarkable Iranian world-maps were discovered in 1989 and 1995. Both are made of brass and date from 17th-century Iran. Mecca is at the centre and a highly sophisticated longitude and latitude grid enables the user to determine the direction and distance to Mecca for anywhere in the world between Andalusia and China. Prior to the discovery of these maps it was thought that such cartographic grids were conceived in Europe ca. 1910. This richly-illustrated book presents an overview of the ways in which Muslims over the centuries have determined the sacred direction towards Mecca (qibla) and then describes the two world-maps in detail. The author shows that the geographical data derives from a 15th-century Central Asian source and that the mathematics underlying the grid was developed in 9th-century Baghdad.

**map of world in 1600: World Directory of Map Collections** John A. Wolter, David K. Carrington, Ronald E. Grim, Geography and Map Libraries Sub-Section, 2013-03-01 No detailed description available for World Directory of Map Collections.

**map of world in 1600: Catalogue of Periodical Literature, Journals and Transactions of Learned Societies, Issues from Government and Private Presses, Collections** Bernard Quaritch, 1882

**map of world in 1600: A History of the World in 12 Maps** Jerry Brotton, 2013-11-14 A New York Times Bestseller "Maps allow the armchair traveler to roam the world, the diplomat to argue his points, the ruler to administer his country, the warrior to plan his campaigns and the propagandist to boost his cause... rich and beautiful." – Wall Street Journal Throughout history, maps have been fundamental in shaping our view of the world, and our place in it. But far from being purely scientific objects, maps of the world are unavoidably ideological and subjective, intimately bound up with the systems of power and authority of particular times and places. Mapmakers do not simply represent the world, they construct it out of the ideas of their age. In this scintillating book, Jerry Brotton examines the significance of 12 maps - from the almost mystical representations of ancient history to the satellite-derived imagery of today. He vividly recreates the environments and circumstances in which each of the maps was made, showing how each conveys a highly individual view of the world. Brotton shows how each of his maps both influenced and reflected contemporary events and how, by considering it in all its nuances and omissions, we can better understand the world that produced it. Although the way we map our surroundings is more precise than ever before, Brotton argues that maps today are no more definitive or objective than they have ever been. Readers of this beautifully illustrated and masterfully argued book will never look at a map in quite the same way again. "A fascinating and panoramic new history of the cartographer's art." – The Guardian "The intellectual background to these images is conveyed with beguiling erudition.... There is nothing more subversive than a map." – The Spectator "A mesmerizing and beautifully illustrated book." –The Telegraph

**map of world in 1600: *The Geographical Journal*** , 1915 Includes the Proceedings of the Royal geographical society, formerly pub. separately.

**map of world in 1600: *The World Made New*** Marc Aronson, John W. Glenn, 2007 The World Made New provides an account of the charting of the New World and the long-term effects of America's march into history. The text uses primary sources to bring history to life and features

profiles of the major explorers of the age. The book is illustrated with full-color artwork, multiple-time lines, and six custom National Geographic maps. The text and layout combine to provide an overview of New World exploration, and outline the historical context for the discoveries that literally changed the world. The narrative carries young readers through this age of adventure. Follow the timeline of history unfolding; how the early colonies were established; how dissemination of products like the potato, tomato, tobacco, and corn made the Americas a major part of the new world economy; and how the Caribbean became a major trading hub.

**map of world in 1600: Catalogue** Bernard Quaritch (Firm), 1886

**map of world in 1600: Bernard Quaritch** Bernard Quaritch (Firm), 1874

**map of world in 1600: Catalogue Of The Books On The History, Geography, And Of The Philology Of America, Australasia, Asia, Africa.** Bernard Quaritch., 1886

**map of world in 1600: A General Catalogue of Books Offered to the Public at the Affixed Prices by Bernard Quaritch ...** , 1886

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**map of world in 1600: *Illustrated Encyclopaedia of World History* ,**

**map of world in 1600: The Family Tree Historical Maps Book - Europe** Allison Dolan, Family Tree Editors, 2015-03-16 Journey to the Old Country From Ireland to Italy, Portugal to Poland, Germany to Greece, and everywhere in between, explore your ancestors' European homelands through more than 200 gorgeous reproductions of 18th-century maps, 19th-century and early 20th-century maps. These full-color period maps--covering the peak years of European immigration to America--will help you understand changing boundaries in ancestral countries, and inform your search for genealogical records. Inside you'll find: • Historical maps of the European continent showing how national borders evolved over three centuries • Detailed country maps illustrating key geographical units--provinces, counties, regions, cities and more • Time lines of important events in each country's history • Lists of administrative divisions by country for easy reference • A complete index to aid in viewing maps of interest in greater detail online This country-by-country atlas is an indispensable tool for European genealogy. Put your ancestral origins in geographical context, unravel the boundary changes that trip up genealogists, and envision the old country as your ancestors knew it. The book is also a valuable reference for teachers, homeschooling parents and anyone with an interest in European history. Time travel across the continent with the Family Tree Historical Maps Book: Europe.

**map of world in 1600: The Japanese Buddhist World Map** D. Max Moerman, 2021-12-31

From the fourteenth through the nineteenth centuries Japanese monks created hundreds of maps to construct and locate their place in a Buddhist world. This expansively illustrated volume is the first to explore the largely unknown archive of Japanese Buddhist world maps and analyze their production, reproduction, and reception. In examining these fascinating sources of visual and material culture, author D. Max Moerman argues for an alternative history of Japanese Buddhism—one that compels us to recognize the role of the Buddhist geographic imaginary in a culture that encompassed multiple cartographic and cosmological world views. The contents and contexts of Japanese Buddhist world maps reveal the ambivalent and shifting position of Japan in the Buddhist world, its encounter and negotiation with foreign ideas and technologies, and the possibilities for a global history of Buddhism and science. Moerman's visual and intellectual history traces the multiple trajectories of Japanese Buddhist world maps, beginning with the earliest extant Japanese map of the world: a painting by a fourteenth-century Japanese monk charting the cosmology and geography of India and Central Asia based on an account written by a seventh-century Chinese pilgrim-monk. He goes on to discuss the cartographic inclusion and marginal position of Japan, the culture of the copy and the power of replication in Japanese Buddhism, and the transcultural processes of engagement and response to new visions of the world produced by Iberian Christians, Chinese Buddhists, and the Japanese maritime trade. Later chapters explore the transformations in the media and messages of Buddhist cartography in the age of print

culture and in intellectual debates during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries over cosmology and epistemology and the polemics of Buddhist science. The Japanese Buddhist World Map offers a wholly innovative picture of Japanese Buddhism that acknowledges the possibility of multiple and heterogeneous modernities and alternative visions of Japan and the world.

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