



## Tartaria

46cm × 57.1cm

1573

Colored copper engraving

This map was created by Abraham Ortelius.

This is a map of the land then known as Tartary or Tartaria. The map also depicts Japan and the Northwest Coast of North America. Published as part of the 1573 Latin edition of *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, there were likely only forty prints of this map created, making it a rare specimen. This map shows us the geographic extent of Tartary at the time. To the northeast, it stretched from the Caspian Sea to China. The map also depicts the Northwest Coast of North America, including what is now California and the southwestern United States. This map is the earliest known depiction of California, and

includes the seven cities of Cibola (the seven golden cities of Cibola were legendary cities the Spanish Conquistadors sought in North America in the 16th century), though only six of the cities are depicted here. The mythical Anian Strait is also marked. The map is richly annotated in Latin, including lengthy evaluations.