



Map of the arena of the Great Game

TALLIS, John.
 Independent Tartary.

London, John Tallis & Co., c.1851. Original outline colour. Steel engraving, 260 x 330mm.

£150

Original map of Central Asia, including the Caspian, Kazakstan and Kyrgystan, with three vignette scenes of Tartar life. The area was the scene of the Great Game, a mixture of exploration, espionage and diplomacy, played between Russian and Britain, as the Russians attempted to push their empire south to British India. Marked on the map are the cities of Bukhara, Khiva, Merv and Tashkent, which had been unknown to outsiders less than fifty years before.

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