



The Passage to India as the Suez Canal opened

WYLD, James.

Map of the Countries between England and India Designed to shew the Over-Land and Sea Routes to the East. The Line of Communication with our Indian Possessions and the relative position of Russia to England and Hindostan.

London: Wyld, c.1850. Original colour. 665 x 840mm.

£450

A map of Europe and Asia between Britain and India, with the Mediterranean coast of Africa, Egypt and Nubia. An inset map shows the sea route around the Cape of Good Hope to China and Australia. The title gives clues to the double purpose of this map: firstly the routes to India ; and, secondly, highlighting the threat of Russia to Britain's possession of India, the so-called 'Great Game', caused by Russia's acquisition of territory in Central Asia, aiming towards India's northern border. This is an early example of the map: Lombardy is marked as a possession of Austria, which they lost to the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1859. Later examples were updated to show the Suez Canal. Usually it is found dissected as a folding map.

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