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- ¹ The book is the first of its kind with regard to Iran and primarily reproduces maps printed since the late 15th century in various Christian countries of Europe. It also includes some maps printed in the Ottoman Empire, Qajar Iran and North America. In the Introduction to the book, Alai also reproduces manuscript maps from Islamic and Christian societies before the 15th century. After the introduction, the book is divided into two parts. In the first part, Alai focuses on maps from Latin and Italian print editions of Ptolemy's Geography. They are of two main types – maps illustrating

Ptolemy's division of Asia and variants of the so-called new map of Persia introduced by the Italian cosmographer Giacomo Gastaldi in the Appendix of P. A. Matthioli's Italian translation of S. Münster's new Latin edition. The second part includes general and regional maps of Persia produced in Italy, the Low Countries, France, German countries, Great Britain, Russia, North America, Iran, the Ottoman Empire, Spain and Portugal. Each part starts with a survey on the historical background on the maps and their makers. A good number of the published maps come from the author's own substantial collection.

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