

Werk

Titel: Geography made easy

Autor: Morse, Jedidiah

Verlag: Hall

Ort: Boston

Jahr: 1791

Kollektion: Itineraria; Nordamericana

Digitalisiert: Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

Werk Id: PPN247653810

PURL: <http://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?PPN247653810>

OPAC: <http://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de/DB=1/PPN?PPN=247653810>

LOG Id: LOG_0073

LOG Titel: Persia

LOG Typ: chapter

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P E R S I A.

BOUNDED north, by the Caspian sea ; east, by India ; south, by the Persian gulf and Indian ocean ; west, by Asiatick Turkey. Its length 1450 miles ; its breadth 1250.

The chief city and residence of the sovereign is Isfahan, a fine spacious town.

The north and east parts of Persia are mountainous and cold ; the provinces to the southeast are sandy and desert ; those on the south and west are very fertile. The air in the south is extremely hot in summer, and very unwholesome. There is scarcely any country that has more mountains and fewer rivers. The productions of Persia are similar to those of India.

The Persians are a brave, polite and ingenious people ; honest in their dealings, and civil to strangers. Their great foible seems to be ostentation in their equipages.

The Persians in general are strict followers of Mahomet's doctrine, but differ considerably from the Turks. There are many Christians in Persia, and a sect who worship fire, the followers of Zoroaster.

Persia is governed by an absolute monarch, called Shah or King, and frequently Sophi. The crown is hereditary, but females are excluded.

The Persian empire was founded by Cyrus, after his conquest of Media, 536 years before Christ. It continued till it was overthrown by Alexander the Great, 331 years before Christ. A new empire, styled the Parthian, was formed by the Persians under Arbaces, 250 years before Christ ; but in A. D. 229, Artaxerxes restored it to its ancient title ; and in 651, the Saracens put an end to that empire. From this time Persia was a prey to the Tartars, and a province of Indostan, till Thomas Kouli Khan once more raised it to a powerful kingdom. He was assassinated in 1747.

ARABIA.