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Zelandia Comitatus

Stock#: 98424
Map Maker: Mercator
Date: 1595
Place: Duisberg
Color: Hand Colored
Condition: VG
Size: 19 x 14 inches
Price: \$ 975.00



Description:

Striking example of Gerard Mercator's detailed map of Zeeland, first published in Duisburg in 1595.

Includes an elaborate strapwork cartouche and sailing ships.

The geopolitical situation of Zeeland, a key province in the Netherlands, during the final two decades of the 16th century was profoundly shaped by the Eighty Years' War (1568-1648), a seminal conflict in the history of Western Europe. This period, spanning the 1580s and 1590s, was marked by intense military, political, and religious upheavals, which played a pivotal role in shaping the region's destiny.

In the late 16th century, the Netherlands, including Zeeland, was engulfed in the throes of the Dutch Revolt against the Spanish Habsburg rule. This revolt was not merely a struggle for political autonomy but also a battle for religious freedom, as the Protestant Reformation had taken a strong hold in the region, in opposition to the Catholic Spanish monarchy. Zeeland, with its strategic maritime position, emerged as a crucial theater of conflict in this larger continental drama.

The strategic importance of Zeeland was underscored by its location. As a coastal province with significant access to the North Sea, Zeeland was a vital node in the control of trade routes and military operations. This maritime significance was exemplified in the Battle of the Spanish Armada in 1588, where the Dutch, along with the English, successfully repelled the Spanish fleet, marking a turning point in the war. Zeeland's ports, such as Flushing (Vlissingen), were pivotal in these maritime confrontations.

Politically, the period saw Zeeland actively participating in the Union of Utrecht (1579), a confederation of Dutch provinces that declared independence from Spanish rule. This declaration, known as the Act of



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Abjuration (1581), was a landmark moment in Dutch history, setting the stage for the emergence of the Dutch Republic. Zeeland's involvement in the Union underlined its commitment to the broader Dutch struggle for sovereignty and religious liberty.

Detailed Condition: