



**Barry Lawrence Ruderman
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(Ethnographic Map of the Caucasus) Дорожная карта Кавказского края составлена и литографирована в Военно-Топографическом отделе Кавказского Военного Округа 1903 года, Тифлис. [Road Map of the Caucasus Region Compiled and Lithographed by the Caucasus Military District 1903 Tbilisi]

Stock#: 94620
Map Maker: Military Topographic
Department of the Caucasus
Date: 1903
Place: Tbilisi
Color: Color
Condition: Good
Size:
Price: SOLD



Description:

Created by the Military Topographic Department of the Caucasus and published in Tbilisi in 1903, this large color-lithographed, linen-mounted, folding map, "Дорожная карта Кавказского края" or "Road Map of the Caucasus Region," provides an invaluable snapshot of the ethno-cultural mosaic of the Caucasus at the dawn of the 20th century.

This period was marked by significant geopolitical shifts and the intensifying churn of empires, making the Caucasus a focal point of European, Ottoman, and Russian interests. Each force sought to understand and leverage the region's complex ethnography in their expansionist strategies, turning ethnographic maps into critical instruments of knowledge and power. This map, with its detailed "Ethnographic Key," represents one such instrument, dividing the region's diverse populations into distinct categories - a reflection of the contemporary racial theories and socio-political classifications.

The map's "Ethnographic Key" categorizes the population by racial groupings and corresponding subgroups, such as the "Indo-European (Aryan) family" with its "Slavic," "Germanic," "Roman," "Pelagic," "Iranian," and "Armenian" generations (i.e., lineages or ethnic groups), and the "Semitic family" with its Jewish and Assyrian populations. Intriguingly, it also includes a "Properly Caucasian" category, reflecting the region's distinct ethno-linguistic groups. The "Mongolian Race" is also represented, further testifying



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to the region's cultural and racial diversity.

The rich detail in this map extends beyond ethnic delineations. Notations encompass military fortresses, postal and telegraph stations, lighthouses, railway stations, factories, and border controls, offering a glimpse into the infrastructural realities of the region in the early 20th century. This map, therefore, not only portrays the intricate patchwork of ethnic groups in the Caucasus but also illuminates the socio-political and economic landscapes that were part of the imperial tug-of-war in this highly contested region.

In essence, this map from 1903, with its myriad of ethnic, geographical, and infrastructural details, serves as an informative and engaging record of the Caucasus at a critical point in its history. It offers a rich tableau for understanding the complex interplay of cultures, empires, and geopolitical strategies at the turn of the century.

Ethnographic Key

A. СРЕДИЗЕМНАЯ РАСА [MEDITERRANEAN RACE]

I. Индо-европейское (арийское) семейство [Indo-European (Aryan) Family]

1. Славянское поколѣние [Slavic Ethnic Group]
2. Германское поколѣние [Germanic Ethnic Group]
3. Романское поколѣние [Romance Ethnic Group]
4. Пеласгийское поколѣние [Pelasgian Ethnic Group]
5. Иранское поколѣние [Iranian Ethnic Group]
6. Армяне [Armenian]

II. Семитическое семейство [Semitic Family]

Евреи [Jews]
Айсоры [Assyrians]

III. Собственно кавказские народы [Properly Caucasian Peoples]

1. Картвельская группа [Kartvelian Group]
2. Западно-горская группа [Western Mountain Group]



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3. Восточно-горская группа [Eastern Mountain Group]

Б. МОНГОЛЬСКАЯ РАСА [MONGOLIAN RACE]

1. Тюркское покольние [Turkic Ethnic Group]
2. Монгольское покомъние [Mongolic Ethnic Group]
3. Финское поколе [Finnish Ethnic Group]

Detailed Condition:

Color-lithographed folding map dissected in 40 parts and mounted on contemporary linen. Extensive pencil translations of ethnonyms in Arabic script. Some wear and creasing at section edges, as illustrated.