
Spain’s official history of the discovery, conquest, and colonization of the Indies at the end of the sixteenth century includes maps of which this is the only one to show much of the area that eventually became the United States. Although the Spanish had considerable cartographic knowledge of the Indies, Philip II’s historian Antonio Herrera y Tordesillas oversaw the production of simple, schematic printed maps such as this to give only general ideas of Spain’s extensive claims without divulging “secret” information to her enemies worldwide.