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Autore	Ibn al-Faqih al-Hamadhani Ahmad ibn Muhammad <active 902, >
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Sommario/riassunto	Written in the tenth century by the Persian geographer Ibn al-Faqh al-Haman, the Abridged Book of the Countries is a living testimony to the world view that the inhabitants of Dâr al-Islâm might have at that time. "According to ' Abd Allh b. ' Amr b. al-'s b. W'il a-Sahm, the figure of the world below is divided into five: it is like the head of the bird, the two wings, the chest, the tail. The head of the world is China; beyond China is a people called Wq-wq, and, beyond Wq-wq, peoples of which Allah alone knows the number; the right wing is India and, beyond India, the sea after which there is no one; the left wing is al-azar and, behind al-azar, two so-called peoples, one Manšak, the other Mšak, behind which Gog and Magog (Y and M) who are among the peoples known to God only ; the breast of the world is Mecca, Hejaz, Syria, Iraq and Egypt; the tail goes from t al-umm to Marib, and the worst part of the bird is the tail. "Basing himself mainly on the Qur'an and on the historical traditions, verses, quotes and sayings he may have heard, Ibn al-Faqh gives us a description of all the wonders of the territories known to man: the Peninsula Arabian,

Egypt and the Nile, the Marib, Syria, the azra, the Land of the Rm, Iraq and the Eastern Countries. Over a thousand years old, this book, strewn with stories and curiosities of all kinds, offers its reader, between history, myth and legend, the most beautiful of journeys, even if it is still.
