

CONTINENTAL DRIFT OF PLATES



225 Million Years Ago



150 Million Years Ago



100 Million Years Ago



Earth Today

A Revolution In Earth Sciences From Continental Drift To Plate Tectonics

James Lawrence Powell



A Revolution In Earth Sciences From Continental Drift To Plate Tectonics:

A Revolution in the Earth Sciences A. Hallam, 1975 *A Revolution in the Earth Sciences* Emil Ludwig, 1973 **The Behavior of the Earth** Claude J. Allègre, 1988

Well over a century after Darwin gave biology its unifying theory of evolution the earth sciences experienced a similar revolution and the theory of plate tectonics took hold. Plate tectonics posed the idea that the earth's crust is divided into a number of large thin plates always in motion relative to one another. In *The Behavior of the Earth* world renowned earth scientist Claude Allègre sets forth the exciting events in this contemporary revolution from its first stirrings in the nineteenth century and Alfred Wegener's original model of continental drift 1912 through the development of its full potential in modern plate tectonic theory. Few scientific theories have been so all encompassing and none has surpassed plate tectonics in explaining such a wide variety of geological phenomena from the origins of mountain building to the formation of the ocean floor. As it integrated our knowledge of the earth's surface with the investigation of its interior plate tectonics fused two previously autonomous strains of scientific inquiry. Continental mobility changed for all time our view of the earth from a static globe to an evolving living planet and allowed us to see that changes in the earth's surface are but exterior manifestations of a dynamic interplay of forces within the crust and the mantle. Allègre casts his lucid exposition of this scientific theory within the historical context of its struggle for acceptance. As he introduces us to the huge cast of personalities and researchers who contributed to the theory he illuminates the complex role that the scientific community plays in the proliferation and acceptance of new ideas. Allègre is as insightful in discussing the human motivation for scientific endeavor as he is skillful in presenting the science that results from this effort. Richly illustrated and including a glossary this book offers the reader rare access both to the central theory of plate tectonics and to the constellation of problems and possibilities that preoccupy earth scientists today.

Revolution in Science I. Bernard Cohen, 1985

Cohen's exploration seeks to uncover nothing less than the nature of all scientific revolutions the stages by which they occur their time scale specific criteria for determining whether or not there has been a revolution and the creative factors in producing a revolutionary new idea.

Four Revolutions in the Earth Sciences James Lawrence Powell, 2014-12-23

Over the course of the twentieth century scientists came to accept four counterintuitive yet fundamental facts about the Earth: deep time, continental drift, meteorite impact, and global warming. When first suggested each proposition violated scientific orthodoxy and was quickly denounced as scientific and sometimes religious heresy. Nevertheless after decades of rejection scientists came to accept each theory. The stories behind these four discoveries reflect more than the fascinating push and pull of scientific work. They reveal the provocative nature of science and how it raises profound and sometimes uncomfortable truths as it advances. For example counter to common sense the Earth and the solar system are older than all of human existence the interactions among the moving plates and the continents they carry account for nearly all of the Earth's surface features and nearly every important feature of our solar system results from the chance collision of objects in space. Most surprising of

all we humans have altered the climate of an entire planet and now threaten the future of civilization This absorbing scientific history is the only book to describe the evolution of these four ideas from heresy to truth showing how science works in practice and how it inevitably corrects the mistakes of its practitioners Scientists can be wrong but they do not stay wrong In the process astonishing ideas are born tested and over time take root **The Earth Sciences** Roy

Porter,2019-10-24 Originally published in 1983 The Earth Sciences An Annotated Bibliography is a compact and thematically organized guide that provides comprehensive access to themes and areas of study in the earth sciences The bibliography is not exhaustive but provides a detailed and critical index to the most important literature in the field The book s core focus is geology and examines the subject broadly covering everything from glaciology geomorphology natural history and palaeontology to oceanography mapping stratigraphy and evolution The book provides detailed essays for each bibliographical chapter on the state of each field of research and the literature compiled for each bibliography will go as far back as around 1700 and contains a wide range of sources from across the world This book will be of interest to academics and students of natural history geology and environmental sciences alike *The Continental Drift Controversy: Volume 4, Evolution into Plate Tectonics* Henry R. Frankel,2016-08-11 Resolution of the sixty year debate over continental drift culminating in the triumph of plate tectonics changed the very fabric of Earth science This four volume treatise on the continental drift controversy is the first complete history of the origin debate and gradual acceptance of this revolutionary theory Based on extensive interviews archival papers and original works Frankel weaves together the lives and work of the scientists involved producing an accessible narrative for scientists and non scientists alike This fourth volume explains the discoveries in the mid 1960s which led to the rapid acceptance of seafloor spreading theory and how birth of plate tectonics followed soon after with the geometrification of geology Although plate tectonics did not explain the cause or dynamic mechanism of drifting continents it provided a convincing kinematic explanation that continues to inspire geodynamic research to the present day Other volumes in this set Volume 1 Wegener and the Early Debate Volume 2 Paleomagnetism and Confirmation of Drift Volume 3 Introduction of Seafloor Spreading 4 Volume Set *Earth Science Today* G. Singh,2009

The Cambridge History of Science: Volume 6, The Modern Biological and Earth Sciences David C.

Lindberg,Peter J. Bowler,Ronald L. Numbers,Roy Porter,2003 This book in the highly respected Cambridge History of Science series is devoted to the history of the life and earth sciences since 1800 It provides comprehensive and authoritative surveys of historical thinking on major developments in these areas of science on the social and cultural milieus in which the knowledge was generated and on the wider impact of the major theoretical and practical innovations The articles are written by acknowledged experts who provide concise accounts of the latest historical thinking coupled with guides to the most important recent literature In addition to histories of traditional sciences the book covers the emergence of newer disciplines such as genetics biochemistry and geophysics The interaction of scientific techniques with their practical applications in

areas such as medicine is a major focus of the book as is its coverage of controversial areas such as science and religion and environmentalism

Global Tectonics Philip Kearey, Keith A. Klepeis, Frederick J. Vine, 2013-05-28 The third edition of this widely acclaimed textbook provides a comprehensive introduction to all aspects of global tectonics and includes major revisions to reflect the most significant recent advances in the field A fully revised third edition of this highly acclaimed text written by eminent authors including one of the pioneers of plate tectonic theory Major revisions to this new edition reflect the most significant recent advances in the field including new and expanded chapters on Precambrian tectonics and the supercontinent cycle and the implications of plate tectonics for environmental change Combines a historical approach with process science to provide a careful balance between geological and geophysical material in both continental and oceanic regimes Dedicated website available at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/kearey>

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