Plate Tectonics Continental Drift And Mountain Building

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a biography of the man who created the theory of continental drift

unravel the mysteries of earth s formation with theory of continental drift explored this book offers a comprehensive look at the groundbreaking theory of continental drift and plate tectonics discover how continents once joined in a supercontinent called pangaea slowly drifted apart to form our current continents this resource has evidence supporting the theory from matching fossils across continents to studying mountain ranges and seismic waves ideal for educators it s a gateway to inspire young minds about the dynamic nature of our planet start this geological journey in your classroom today

grades 7 12

why did american geologists reject the notion of continental drift first posed in 1915 and why did british scientists view the theory as a pleasing confirmation this text based on archival resources provides answers to these questions

a masterful biography of alfred wegener 1880 1930 the german scientist who discovered continental drift winner of the choice outstanding academic title of the choice acrl alfred wegener aimed to create a revolution in science which would rank with those of nicolaus copernicus and charles darwin after completing his doctoral studies in astronomy at the university of berlin wegener found himself drawn not to observatory science but to rugged fieldwork which allowed him to cross into a variety of disciplines the author of the theory of continental drift the direct ancestor of the modern theory of plate tectonics and one of the key scientific concepts of the past century wegener also made major contributions to geology geophysics astronomy geodesy atmospheric physics meteorology and glaciology remarkably he completed this pathbreaking work while grappling variously with financial difficulty war economic depression scientific isolation illness and injury he ultimately died of overexertion on a journey to probe the greenland icecap and calculate its rate of drift this landmark biography the only complete account of the scientist s fascinating life and work is the culmination of more than twenty years of intensive research in alfred wegener mott t greene places wegener s upbringing and theoretical advances in earth science in the context of his brilliantly eclectic career bringing wegener to life by analyzing his published scientific work delving into all of his surviving letters and journals and tracing both his passionate commitment to science and his thrilling experiences as a polar explorer a military officer during world war i and a world record setting balloonist in the course of writing this book greene traveled to every place that alfred wegener lived and worked to berlin rural brandenburg marburg hamburg and heidelberg in germany to innsbruck and graz in austria and onto the greenland icecap he also pored over archives in copenhagen munich marburg graz and bremerhaven where the majority of wegener s surviving papers are found written with great immediacy and descriptive power alfred wegener is a powerful portrait of the scientist who pioneered the modern concept of unified earth science the book should be of interest not only to earth scientists students of polar travel and exploration and historians but to all readers who are fascinated by the great minds of science

continental drift colliding continents converging cultures is as much an account of the impressions western culture made on constantin roman as a young researcher from behind the iron curtain as a personal history of the developing new science of plate tectonics the book elucidates the author s struggles against a web of bureaucracy to secure hi

continental drift brings together within one volume a discussion of the geophysical evidence relating to horizontal movements in the earth s crust in its widest sense this is not the time for a reappraisal of the work of german meteorologist alfred wegener but it is hoped that this volume will stimulate a serious interest in a subject formerly considered by many earth scientists as already closed the book contains 12 chapters and begins with a discussion of paleomagnetic evidence for continental drift and its geophysical cause this is followed by separate chapters on of paleoclimatic evidence on the paleomagnetic latitudes given by paleomagnetism studies of earthquake mechanism movements on major transcurrent faults and magnetic evidence for horizontal displacements in the

floor of the pacific ocean subsequent chapters deal with thermal convection in the earth s mantle the theory of convection in spherical shells and its application to the problem of thermal convection in the earth s mantle mountain building hypotheses and investigations of the deep sea floor

this textbook explains how mountains are formed and why there are old and young mountains it provides a reconstruction of the earths paleogeography and shows why the shapes of south america and africa fit so well together furthermore it explains why the pacific is surrounded by a ring of volcanos and earthquake prone areas while the edges of the atlantic are relatively peaceful this thoroughly revised textbook edition addresses all these questions and more through the presentation and explanation of the geodynamic processes upon which the theory of continental drift is based and which have led to the concept of plate tectonics it is a source of information for students of geology geophysics geography geosciences in general general natural sciences as well as professionals and interested layman

the definitive account of the early debate over wegener s theory of continental drift based on extensive interviews and archival material

studies of the magnetic anomalies paralleling ocean ridges have furnished partisans of continental drift with decisive arguments to take stock of this important question my colleague thellier and i decided in the early summer of 1967 to make it the subject of the annual seminar on earth physics for the school year 1967 68 although research was still developing rapidly the general assembly of the international union of geodesy and geophysics held in switzerland in september particularly some of the meetings in zurich under the auspices of the international committee for the upper mantle appeared to confirm that we had made no important omissions at the con clusion of the seminar where i had been responsible for most of the lectures i resolved to write the present volume for the non specialized scientific reader the project turned out to be a good deal more ambitious than i had thought it is quite an undertaking nowadays to try to survey a rapidly growing subject first of all because of the difficulty of gathering material publication delays are now nearing one year with the result that specialists communicate largely through a selective distribution of reports as well as verbally in frequent colloquia i warmly thank those who helped me in getting unpublished literature especially xavier le pichon even so some essential work came to my knowledge only lately

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