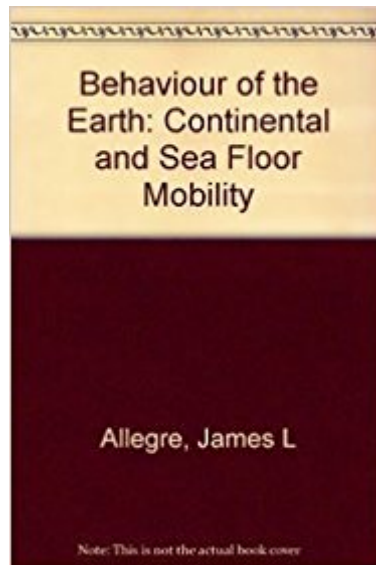




The book was found

The Behavior Of The Earth: Continental And Seafloor Mobility



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press; First Edition edition (June 24, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674064577

ISBN-13: 978-0674064577

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.2 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,072,187 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Science & Math

> Earth Sciences > Geology > Plate Tectonics #2416 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geography > Regional

Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation)

Claude Allègre is Professor of Earth Sciences, Université de Paris, and a 1986 recipient of the Crafoord Prize awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

I started reading Vincent Courtillot's *Evolutionary Catastrophes* (volcanism) first in order to gain a handle on the mass extinction argument and found that this book challenges Walter Alvarez's book *T. Rex And The Crater of Doom* (comet or asteroid bombardment). Therefore, I started reading that at the same time; which got me to pull out and start skimming David Levy's *Impact Jupiter* (comet expert). In the meantime, I thought it prudent to start reading *The Behavior of the Earth* by Claude Allegre (plate tectonics), and picked up Steven Stanley's book *Extinction* (global climate change). Recently I saw via a Google search that Linda Elkins-Tanton now thinks that perhaps meteorite bombardment could have allowed hot magma to vent thus causing global climate change and hence the mass extinctions. This is fun!

The grumpiness and even hidebound intransigence of 'traditional geologists' who see their entire geological worldview literally swept away by the breathtaking scope of Plate Tectonic theory is a fascinating aspect of the human side of science shown in books such as John McPhee's. McPhee himself notes this, referring to geosynclines -- a mainstay of the 'old' geology -- as "a rational fiction", and that "he is following a science as it lurches forward from error to discovery and back to error" (referring to an early mis-construction). A book I glanced through, *The Colorado Plateau : a geologic history*, by Daniel L. Baars, has an editorial-style Preface written by just such an annoyed 'old geologist', excoriating the "religious fervour" shown by adherents to the new theory. And I might add that, after reading several books with PT as a basis, I found this book (written in the '70s and re-printed), with its 'old-style' terminology and complete lack of the plate-tectonic grand-scale overview of why such-and-such a geological feature is there in the first place, to be quite unreadable and boring in the extreme. *The Behavior of the Earth: Continental and Seafloor Mobility*, on the other hand, is neither boring nor unreadable, while providing an excellent historical approach to presenting PT theory, from Wegener to the current period (1988 was the date of publication, but this

is no drawback from this general reader's perspective). It pays very welcome attention to the subject from a History of Science perspective, with careful attention to the scientists who provided each new advancement, while explaining the technical aspects of the theory with many pictures and diagrams. I found it an excellent supplement to McPhee's books, which mostly lack visuals to fill out his word-pictures, and I referred many times to the seafloor-spreading and ocean-basin maps while reading McPhee.rms

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Behavior of the Earth: Continental and Seafloor Mobility Montana & Idaho's Continental Divide Trail: The Official Guide (The Continental Divide Trail Series) Peeling The Earth Like An Onion : Earth Composition - Geology Books for Kids | Children's Earth Sciences Books Understanding and Managing Tourism Impacts: An Integrated Approach (Contemporary Geographies of Leisure, Tourism and Mobility) Tight Hip Flexors: The 7 Minute Tight Hip Solution: Simple and Effective Movements That Quickly Release Tight Hip Flexors And Reduce Hip Pain (Hip replacement ... mobility exercises, hip flexor exercises) Psoas Strength and Flexibility: Core Workouts to Increase Mobility, Reduce Injuries and End Back Pain Functional Safety for Road Vehicles: New Challenges and Solutions for E-mobility and Automated Driving The Art and Science of Teaching Orientation and Mobility to Persons with Visual Impairments The Anxieties of Mobility: Migration and Tourism in the Indonesian Borderlands (Southeast Asia: Politics, Meaning, and Memory) Tourism, Religion and Pilgrimage in Jerusalem (Contemporary Geographies of Leisure, Tourism and Mobility) The Roll Model: A Step-by-Step Guide to Erase Pain, Improve Mobility, and Live Better in Your Body Everyday Health and Fitness with Multiple Sclerosis: Achieve Your Peak Physical Wellness while Working with Limited Mobility The Stretch Workout Plan: Simple Exercises to Improve Flexibility, Increase Mobility and Relieve Tension Getting Back on Your Feet: How to Recover Mobility and Fitness After Injury or Surgery to Your Foot, Leg, Hip, or Knee Toxic Inequality: How America's Wealth Gap Destroys Mobility, Deepens the Racial Divide, and Threatens Our Future The First Helicopter War: Logistics and Mobility in Algeria, 1954-1962 The Inner Game of Work: Focus, Learning, Pleasure, and Mobility in the Workplace Fallproof! A Comprehensive Balance and Mobility Training Program The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility across the Indian Ocean (California World History Library) Flexible Ridesharing: New Opportunities and Service Concepts for Sustainable Mobility

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

Privacy

FAQ & Help