

the east of Arakan Yema has also been cited to suggest that subduction processes are still operative. The lithosphere under the Eastern Himalayas is apparently experiencing compression resulting in the continued uplift of the Shillong plateau. Models for the evolution of Northeast India and the Himalayas, in general, have been presented as proposed by different workers.

While the author deserves to be complimented for his efforts, the book falls short of its ambitious title to an extent. For instance, important segments of the subcontinent have been virtually left out with but a passing mention in Chapter-3. These include the entire Deccan trap, the various Proterozoic basins of Southern and Central India, the Aravalli region as well as the Cambay Basin in the northwest. These deficiencies notwithstanding, the book is an asset for students and professional earth scientists alike.

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SHEET EVOLUTION OF CONTINENTS A MORPHO-STRUCTURAL APPROACH. By K. P. Rode—Himalaya Publishing House, Bombay. 1986, pp. 250, Figures 112, coloured plates, 24, Price Rs. 325.

The fact that concept of sheet movement and continental expansion first suggested by the author in 1952 has remained deeply entrenched in his thinking over a period of three decades, despite the advent of widely accepted concepts of plate-tectonics and sea-floor spreading, speaks of his personal conviction of the validity of his theory. Rode's concept stems from his identification of the morphogenic wonder of the globe centering around Tibet-Himalayan region, where he presumes all the sediments accumulated in closely set basins like a pile of books; with the basal part becoming mobile into which magmatic fluids permeated leading to upheaval and folding of sediments. When this pile tilted, the sheet packet got detached and gravitationally moved in all directions with the top pile migrating further and the basal ones stopping at shorter distances. With the fall of temperature and consequent solidification of intrusive magma, there was cessation of movement of sheets but, with the shifting centres of volcanic activity away from the continental border towards deeper seas a new series of lateral movements of sheets took place. This is how he explains the present architectural development of the globe. In support of this, he cites several geomorphic expressions on the globe like similarity of coast lines, river courses, rift valleys, submarine features, marine shelves, island arcs, oceanic trenches, diapirs and even unconformities as indicators of sheet movement. Rode dismisses the latest attempt of plate tectonics as assumptions 'which hardly stand scrutiny'. Can not the same remark apply to his sheet movement?

This review is out of place for any comment on the author's concept, but the doubt remains as to what extent science can accommodate a dogma. However, one aspect which stands aloft after reading through the book is the scholarship and the understanding of the global morphogenic features which the author has displayed in his writing. This alone compels the possession of this book, but unfortunately the price is high, thereby minimising its wide reader accessibility. But all geoscience libraries should have this book as a reminder of the long effort and independent thinking of an eminent professor.

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