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Book Review

Yang Zunyi, Cheng Yugi and Wang Hongzhen: The Geology of China. – Oxford Monographs on Geology and Geophysics, 303 p, 1986

China is a large country, therefore a book with this title and only 303 pages raises certain expectations. The first glance at this volume reveals the intention of the authors: the detailed and complete geological description is not the goal; after the publication of 'The Geology of China' by the late Professor Li Siguang in the year 1939, the authors now want to provide the second attempt at introducing this subject to foreign readers.

Thus, the text is arranged into four parts:

I Background

The development of Chinese geology and mining is reviewed.

II Stratigraphy

After the introduction of the stratigraphic provinces of China and their classification and terminology there follows a brief summary of the stratigraphic development during the geological eras. Thereafter, the main part of the text covers the description of all geological periods with regard to the different regions of China.

III Magmatic and metamorphic rocks in China

Here, the distribution of magmatic rocks and magmatism is given, as well as of metamorphic series and metamorphic belts.

IV Geotectonic development of China

The tectonic framework and the geotectonic units are described as well as their development. Principal tectonic domains and correlations are discussed.

The volume is completed by a comprehensive appendix: abbreviations of isotopic dating institutions including 19 plates with selected samples of prehistoric tools, proterozoic stromatolites, microplants and algae, as well as fossils from all geological periods, and microscopic views of thin sections of rock samples are given. Then selected references are added, and a stratigraphic index written in English and Chinese. Names are spelt throughout the volume according to the Pinyin system.

The text and the carefully drawn pictures and tables, as well as the photographs, are printed very well. Thus, the book provides not only an overview on the geology of China but also much detailed information. Especially in our time, when more and more western geoscientists use the chances to visit this exciting country, this book must be recommended as a handy guide to Chinese geology.

G. Jentzsch