

ROLE OF NW-SE-STRIKING FAULTS IN TECTONICS OF EAST EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND CAUCASUS

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Imageries and geologic information show NW-SE-striking faults to significantly define tectonics of East Europe, Middle East and Caucasus. Among them, Teyser-Euphrates and Nalchick-Pre-Talysh faults play an important role. Along Teyser-Tornquist segment of Teyser-Euphrates fault, arc-shaped alpine complex of Carpatians was brought to a contact with metamorphics of Ukrainian shield. To the SE, fault is extending to the region of Dobrudja. In western part of Black Sea, Teyser-Euphrates fault divides seabed blocks of different structure. In Northern Anatolia, Teyser-Euphrates fault separates western and eastern Pontides and acts as sinister. In central Anatolia, fault is masked by sub-latitudinal thrusts. Further to the SE, Teyser-Euphrates fault is displayed in longitudinal segment of Euphrates River valley. Here, fault defines eastern border of Palmirides and western border of Mesopotamian foredeep. Teyser-Euphrates fault extends over a distance of 3 500 km; its kinematics may be referred to as strike-slip. Opposing slip sense at different fault segments complicates the calculation of its cumulative offset. To the NE of Teyser-Tornquist fault, transregional sinister is striking from the town of Nalchick (Northern Caucasus) to the Pre-Talysh foredeep (Azerbaijan). Where intersecting the Greater Caucasus, this fault defines Greater-Caucasian syntax. In Kura River valley, Nalchick-PreTalysh fault is characterized by mismatches between inner structures of upper Kura and lower Kura intermountain troughs.

Maximal tectonic activities on both faults were caused by Pyrenean and Istrian foldings, although general situation began to form by Laramide folding.