

EARLY ALPINE PERI-TETHYAN PALAEO-TECTONICS AND PALAEOGEOGRAPHY IN THE CENTRAL PARTS OF THE BALKAN PENINSULA

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Opposite to Tethyan domains, the central parts of the Balkan Peninsula were characterized in Triassic to Mid-Cretaceous times by sedimentation of Peri-Tethyan type. Important tectonic events with uplift and erosion occurred in latest Triassic and mid-Cretaceous times.

Late Triassic tectonics proceeded diachronously from earliest Carnian to Rhaetian time with a break up of the Middle Triassic carbonate platform. Gradually uplifting horsts suffered lateritic weathering and erosion whereas in the adjacent low areas the sedimentation proceeded with red bed deposition, and farther on, with upgrade of the carbonate platform. The whole region became a dry land at the end of Triassic times. The Jurassic transgression began locally at the end of the Hettangian and attained its maximum in the Bajocian. In Middle Jurassic times the Peri-Tethyan sedimentation area was differentiated in three domains, correspondingly with dominant carbonate, flysch, and radiolarite-shaly sedimentation. In Kimmeridgian time only two domains (carbonate platform and flysch trough) remained, whereas in Early Cretaceous times the sedimentation became carbonate to terrigenous. Mid Cretaceous folding and thrusting related to Tethyan closure and subduction were most prominent, and the Upper Cretaceous continental and shallow marine sediments sealed the eroded Mid Cretaceous structures. The Rhodope massif was dominated by vertical tendencies during Cretaceous times, and was first covered by continental and marine basins in early Palaeogene times.