

## **PALEOGEOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION OF SEDIMENTARY BASINS OF THE NORTHERN PERITETHYS**

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After the infilling of Triassic troughs with deltaic and submarine- deltaic sediments, several sedimentary basins originated on the southern continental margin of the Russian Plate, that was included in the Northern Peritethys. Thick terrigenous coal- bearing, sulfate-carbonate and carbonate deposits were accumulated there during of the Jurassic - Eocene. A strong tectonic reorganization, accompanied by the subsidence of marginal continental crustal blocks, began in the Early Oligocene. The resulting Maykop marine basin embraced a wide area from a margin of the Moesian plate in the west to South-Caspian Basin in the east. All the way of this basin, a thick sequence (2000-5000 m) of homogeneous clays deposited in the Oligocene - Early Miocene. The active stage of an evolution of the Pre-Caucasus sedimentary basins has ended with the accumulation of a Pliocene - Pleistocene molasse in the foredeeps, that was accompanied by the growing of many clayey diapires and mud volcanoes, starting in the Upper Miocene. The evolution of other basins of the Northern Peritethys, first of all of the Black Sea and South-Caspian basins, was in line with a little different scenario. The thick sequence of the Maykop clays formed only in separate troughs, and the subsidence of the crust started in its South - Caspian segment only in the Pliocene and in its Black Sea segments in the Pleistocene. In this relation, the diapirism of Maykop clays there appeared later than in Pre-Caucasus.