

PERI-TETHYAN PLATFORM PALAEOGEOGRAPHY

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The Peri-Tethys Program attempted to depict the cratons behaviour relative to the Tethys Ocean progress. 22 palaeo-environmental maps has been drawn at the scale of 1/10 millions, from the Mos-covian to Last Glacial Maximum. They deal with Europa (from Atlantic to Ural) and Africa (including African, Somalian and Arabian blocs). Each map shows the involved cratonic blocs in their palaeogeographical position. The nowadays outcropping strata belonging to the slice of time relevant to a map are plotted with patterns indicating facies. They are interpolated and coloured relatively to their sedimentary environmental significance. The drawn geodynamic features, palaeostress and active faults, give the tectonic evolution trend during the time fixed on the map. The resulted maps illustrate some major conclusions : (1) The European craton is compound of two units. The Teyssie-Tornquist line is clearly evidenced by the environments during the Mesozoic times. To the SE the deposits indicate deeper environmental conditions than to the NE. This feature leads us to understand that the Mediterranean litho-spherique seuil is wider than previously drawn. The south-eastern part of Euro-pean craton seems to belong to this seuil of which the lithosphere is thinner. (2) During the Cainozoic times the environments distribution indicates the progressive uplift of the European craton from the alpine front to the Northwest. Map by map we see the marine environments superficies decrease with a North-westward gradient.