

## Book Review

THE GEODYNAMICS OF THE AEGEAN AND ANATOLIA edited by Tuncay Taymaz, Yücel Yılmaz & Yıldırım Dilek. Geological Society of London, 2007. Special Publications 291, 320 pages. ISBN 978-1-86239-239-7.

The Eastern Mediterranean region and the circum-Aegean-Anatolian region in particular display a great variety of geological phenomena that express many fundamental geodynamic processes. It records processes ranging from continental breakup and rifting to plate convergence, collision and building of an orogenic edifice, as well as the associated crustal scale deformation, metamorphism, and igneous activity. Many of these processes are still active, being, manifest by earthquakes, ongoing faulting, volcanism, reshuffling and deformation of minor and major plates, etc. The deformation in the Aegean Sea and bordering lands is among the fastest now occurring in continental areas. All this makes the region a spectacular natural laboratory for studying the earth's internal dynamics and how it affects human activity. No wonder so many geologists and geophysicists from the region and from other countries were attracted to this fascinating area, producing a wealth of data and ideas that impacted our understanding how the earth operates.

Special Publication 291 of the Geological Society of London edited by Tuncay Taymaz, Yücel Yılmaz & Yıldırım Dilek is a recent addition to the literature presenting the rich harvest of geodynamic research in the Aegean region and Anatolia. This volume is another of several previous Special Publications dealing with this region, and as usual the production is superb. It brings together 12 papers that cover a broad range of topics. They were selected from among the works presented at the International symposium of the Geodynamics and Active Tectonics of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean, held in 2005 at the Kadir Has University, İstanbul, Turkey. The Symposium was held in memory of Professor Kazım Ergin to salute his prominent role in advancing teaching and research in theoretical and experimental geophysics in Turkey.

The papers included in this volume deal with studies in the region extending from Cyprus through Anatolia and the Aegean to Bulgaria. They present recent findings regarding three research themes: (a) Aspects of the

Aegean region and the Cyclades in particular, dealing with high-pressure metamorphic rocks, Miocene–Quaternary igneous activity, and Cenozoic to recent crustal deformation in Bulgaria. (b) Young tectonic activity along the active plate boundary extending along the Aegean arc and farther east to Cyprus, emphasizing seismic activity and tsunami generation. (c) Structural effects resulting from strike-slip faulting in Anatolia, dealing with various aspects of their role in regional deformation, and their young activity and associated seismicity. The papers collected in Special Publication 291 present recent advances in the understanding of these topics and set the stage for follow-up studies in the future.

The collection also expresses present day trends in the study of the region. Most prominent is the great interest in the ongoing and geologically young processes occurring in the region as keys to deciphering fundamental geodynamic process as well as the need to advance the understanding of their impact human activity. Also evident is the wide geographic area covered by the works in this volume, expressing the recognition that local phenomena can be best evaluated in a broad regional context. Therefore this volume will be useful to researchers interested in the geodynamics of the Aegean-Anatolian region, both to those interested in the broad picture and to those focusing on particular topics.

This collection of papers illustrates well the variety of the research opportunities in geodynamics offered by the region. It does not tell, however, that anyone doing research this region will also be awarded by a encountering a rich and varied cultural and historic setting and the warm hospitality of the people.

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