

Journal of Sedimentary Research

An International Journal of SEPM

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Review accepted 17 November 2004

***Weathering, Slopes, and Landforms*, David Atkinson, 2004, Hodder and Stoughton Educational, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH, England. Price softbound \$12.95, 130p. ISBN 0340816902**

This handy, attractive, AAA guidebook-sized softbound is part of the *Access to Geography* series published by Hodder and Stoughton of the U.K. to introduce general readers as well as beginning geologists to various topics in geography. This compact volume would be a suitable adjunct text for a beginning course in sedimentary geology. It is a concise, well-illustrated, not-too-sophisticated introduction to weathering processes and features, mass movement, and the evolution of slopes.

The book begins with an elementary review of the origin, classification, and characteristics of sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks, then turns to geomorphology, describing the landscapes produced when various contrasting rock types are exposed at the Earth's surface. A number of appropriate, very specific regional examples are given. Many of these are British localities, which is understandable in light of the author's background.

The second half of the book will be especially useful to students of sedimentary rocks. Mechanical, chemical, and biological weathering are adequately discussed and illustrated, although some academics will find the level a bit too unsophisticated. The level of chemistry is perhaps a bit shallow, and the quantitative coverage of sediment gravity flows could be more extensive. An entire chapter is devoted to mass movement with special attention paid to human activities such as undercutting and construction that commonly cause it.

Still another chapter deals with slope development, slope profiles, and the various models (W.M. Davis, Walther Penck, and L.C. King) that explain changes in slopes over time. The volume concludes with a discussion of the relationship between surface rock type and human activity. How does the type of rock exposed at the surface relate to everything from tourism and agriculture to subsidence and quarrying?

Roughly fifty illustrations include photos, simple pen and ink geological maps and diagrams, and tables. These are adequate in number and detail and nicely produced. Curiously and conveniently, each of the seven chapters is cleverly reviewed with a single, well-conceived summary diagram. A half page of reasonably well thought out questions ends each chapter.

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