



Book Review

Title of Book: Geology of Nigeria's Sedimentary Basins

Author of Book: C. S. Nwajide, PhD, FNMGS, FNAPE

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Number of pages: 565

Reviewer: Dr. Layi Fatona

Starting from the balanced CONTENTS - with a historical Introductory Chapter - describing the Physical setting of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the book roars through the fundamentals and basics of the necessary but not that easy subjects of climate, temperature, pressure and air masses (winds), humidity, precipitation, seasons, soils, vegetation, physiography and general geological frame; working the reader through the fundamentals of the Late Prof Durotoye's GL-102 course requirements of the early 1970's at the University of Ibadan. By the time I finished reading though Chapter 1 of the book, I, like any fortunate student from one of the Geology institutions of today, have enough materials to take me through the GL 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105 prototype course series. It is a "must have" a solid foundation for meeting the degree course pre-requisites necessary for advancement as a budding geologist.

From Chapter 2 which covers "The Benue Trough: - Origin and Structuration", Dr. C. S. Nwajide starts breaking you through the grounds. Commencing with the origin of the Benue Trough, taking the reader - geologist through the gross characteristics of orientation, configuration of the sub-basins, lineaments with theories of origins, from Plate Tectonics, through the evolutionary stages of formation and deformation, including magmatic, metamorphic and later marine transgressive and regressive processes, the author wakes you and I up, with a much sharper appetite not just for the Benue trough - but the next of the Sedimentary basins.

In Chapter 3 which deals with "The Northern Benue Trough Sedimentary Domain", the author brings home the details of the Northern Benue Trough, combing and presenting previous works on the origins of the basin, from the relicts and records of Permo-Triassic sediments overlying the Pre-Cambrian basement. He takes us all - Teacher and student (or even if you are the Exploring Geologist) on a wide and long sedimentary geology "cruise" - From the basin fill of the Gongila Formation, Fika Shales with the uncomformable overlying sediments of the Chad Formation - BINGO! I am now a Born Again Geologist!!! I shouted aloud and in the dead of night - on this long haul flight to Atlanta on Delta Airlines - my exuberant outburst, necessitating the middle aged Air Hostess in our cabin coming over to my seat to inquire from me "Is everything all right here?" She found to her amazement that I was reading this fat book, not a novel or the bible. She was curious! We started talking Geology of Nigeria's Sedimentary Basins! THANK YOU Dr. Nwajide for bringing me back to my humble beginnings.

If you happen to be a Hard Rock, or a Structural, Sedimentary, Mining, Petroleum or Environmental Geologist - Dr. C. S. Nwajide has you and your interests covered with significant

annotations of what you can see in many of the outcrops. He has simply brought the geology of these interesting basins to your desk top!

I was tickled by his foray into the discussions of the Petroleum Potentials in the Northern Benue Trough. I hope this section was not responsible for the most recent public outbursts of the Governor from one of the Basement Geology States, who announced the discovery of "New Oil" in commercial quantities and was already planning a refinery in his state (seemingly and oblivious of the fact that the find was nothing more than the residual effects of Oil pipeline theft, along a vandalized pipeline - Alternative interpretation is mine O!) - Poor Governor – Dr. Nwajide, Take your time O!! You are warned, be careful, you make this book so enjoyable even for the Political / Politician readers who may want to take up Geology as a 2nd interest.

In Chapter 4, we are taken deep into the Central Benue Trough Sedimentary Domain, with same detailed coverage of the range and types of subject headings of the earlier Sedimentary basins covered in the book. However, here, the book goes into profound details of the author's best. The Sedimentologist is now exposed bare and naked. No longer able to hide his primary professional affiliation and or prejudices for the wonderful subject of sedimentary structures. The author's detailed reporting of the Asu River Group, unconformably overlying the Basement Complex, from the Bima Sandstone, through the Uomba, Arufu, Gboko and Awe Formations - all overlain by the Eze Aku Group and the Awgu Formation - are nothing but GEOLOGY at its best. For the Mineralogist, Economic Geologist, Hydro-geologist and the Environmental Geologist - you can swim in the deep geological waters of this great book.

I therefore leave users and readers of the book to wonder through Chapters 5 for the Southern Benue Trough. It is provocatively and incisively inviting. Bida Basin is presented in Chapter 6. Then to Chapter 7 - the IULLEMMEDEN Basin, Chapter 8 - The Chad Basin and Chapter 9 where the author brings us closer home with his captivating revelations of the Dahomey Basin with the discourse on the TAR Sands.

In Chapter 10, the Anambra Basin is presented. Finally arriving in Chapter 11 at the one and only of its type - The Niger Delta Basin. Here Dr. Nwajide reinvigorates me and is likely to so do this time to many potential readers, more so all earth scientist and petroleum explorationists. Here I will leave you to find and dwell on the prolific details with which he covered the Tertiary Niger Delta Province.

My verdict on this book - It is simply the most comprehensive single reference document on the Geology of Nigeria's Sedimentary Basins from the Chad Basin, Benue Trough, Bida Basin, Iullemmeden Basin, Dahomey Basin, Anambra Basin, Niger Delta Basin, Onshore to the Deep Offshore provinces. The many years of Dr. C. N. Nwajide's petroleum industry collections and knowledge are laid bare for everyone. I mean, every Geologist or earth scientist, will have his or her full cup of coffee or tea in this elaborate book of 565 pages including a well and carefully written Forward by Professor K. Mosto Onuoha, Shell Professor of Geology and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), University of Nigeria, Nsukka.