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This book offers a new interpretation of Iraq's Palaeozoic basement by correlating the geology with respect to Arabia, Africa to the north and beneath the Phanerozoic cover of Iraq. A new hypothesis for the opening of a narrow Southern Neo-Tethys Ocean in Early Cretaceous time is proposed using data from adjacent correlated basins and the geological evolution of the NE margin of the Arabian Plate. The tectonic development, tectonic and lithostratigraphy of Iraq are discussed in the context of the tectonic history of the Arabian Plate.

This book is the first deal with stratigraphy of Iraq. The stratigraphy of Iraq has been dealt with reference to the lithostratigraphic development of the Arabian Plate based on the macrostratigraphic classification of the land area (1961). The macrosequences are provisionally subdivided into provinces. This will provide a stratigraphic foundation for future generations of Iraqi geologists to build on and improve. The work of Bailey et al. (1939) and Ridley (1950) and Bailey and Jassim (1967) were published prior to the completion of the geological survey of the Iraq. This book updates the stratigraphy incorporating new data collected by the Geological Survey of Iraq. The tectonostratigraphic, magmatic and metamorphic of the Zagros Belt are described in detail. This provides insight into geological problems requiring new research and collaboration with geologists from Turkey and Iran, to better understand the geological evolution of the Zagros Suture Zone.

Quaternary sediments are discussed in detail in the book since the Mesopotamian Plain forms about 25% of the area of Iraq and houses 40% of its population. Knowledge of the geology of this plain will help in dealing with the problem of soil salinisation which began to severely affect the area during the second half of the Twentieth Century.

The hydrogeology of Iraq is covered in great detail because of its importance for the future development of Iraq and its population. Although Iraq has two major rivers, they only irrigate narrow belts in Central and N Iraq and the Mesopotamian Plain in the south. The rest of Iraq (about 70% of its surface area) relies on groundwater. Groundwater resources are of ever increasing importance in Iraq because of climate changes and the expansion of agriculture of the major crops. The hydrogeology chapter was compiled using data from thousands of water boreholes and thousands of sand-dug wells. It will be a key reference for hydrogeologists and engineers concerned with water resources.

Iraq is rich in hydrocarbons and is one of the top five oil producing countries in the Middle East. The book provides a summary of the oil industry infrastructure in Iraq and provides an introduction to Iraq's petroleum resources and petroleum systems. A database of oil fields is a useful appendix of the book.