

CONTENTS of CONTINENTAL DRIFT

Introduction: The Instability of Scientific Truth 3

I Not the Mechanism

- 1 Two Visions of the Earth 9
- 2 The Collapse of Thermal Contraction 21
- 3 To Reconcile Historical Geology with Isostasy: Continental Drift 54
- 4 Drift Mechanisms in the 1920s 81

II Theory and Method

- 5 From Fact to Theory 123
- 6 The Short Step Backward 157
- 7 Uniformitarianism and Unity 178

III A Revolution in Acceptance

- 8 Direct and Indirect Evidence 223
- 9 An Evidentiary and Epistemic Shift 262
- 10 The Depersonalization of Geology 288

Epilogue: Utility and Truth 313

Notes 319

Bibliography 371

Index 404