

Geology of the western Swiss Alps, a guide-book

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This guide book presents 6 field trips divided in two sections corresponding to the Alpine Externides and Internides, of the western Swiss Alps. A good share of basement geology is included in the guide, and two field trips (Ft1 and Ft5) are mainly devoted to Variscan and pre-Variscan rocks outcrops. Other field trips lead the geologist up to exceptional places like Zermatt, presenting the main key areas of geological and geodynamic interest along a complete cross-section of the western Swiss Alps.

We felt that it was also necessary to present in such a document the latest ideas on Alpine and pre-Alpine geology of the western Tethys realm. Parts of recent publications were used for that matter, they were updated, and put in a general introduction with numerous figures, mainly devoted to the geodynamics of this area in space and time. A special emphasis is put on the reconstruction of the Alpine Tethys paleo-margins.

Coloured Alpine cross-section and block diagram, and excerpts of the new 100'000 structural map of Western Switzerland have been put in annex, in a pouch on the back-cover. Similar excerpts of the topographic map of Switzerland, on which stops are located, accompany each field trip.

ABSTRACT In the central parts of the Himalayas, the High Himalayan Crystalline (HHC) high-grade rocks are exhumed in the frontal part of the range, as a consequence of a tectonic extrusion controlled by combined thrusting along the Main more. ABSTRACT In the central parts of the Himalayas, the High Himalayan Crystalline (HHC) high-grade rocks are exhumed in the frontal part of the range, as a consequence of a tectonic extrusion controlled by combined thrusting along the Main Central Thrust (MCT) and extension along the South Tibetan Detachment System (STDS). TRÄœMPY, R. (1980) Geology of Switzerland, a guide book. Part A: an outline of the geology of Switzerland, Wepf, Basel , 104 pp. [Google Scholar]. van STUIJVENBERG, J. (1979) Geology of the Gurnigel area (Prealps, Switzerland). Matériaux pour la Carte Géologique de la Suisse, Comm. geol. Suisse, N. S.151, 111 pp. The Alpine region of Switzerland, conventionally referred to as the Swiss Alps (German: Schweizer Alpen, French: Alpes suisses, Italian: Alpi svizzere, Romansh: Alps svizras), represents a major natural feature of the country and is, along with the Swiss Plateau and the Swiss portion of the Jura Mountains, one of its three main physiographic regions. The Swiss Alps extend over both the Western Alps and the Eastern Alps, encompassing an area sometimes called Central Alps. While the northern ranges from...