

Russian geologists contribution to Eduard Suess' global compilation

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The results of geological research of Russian geologists had been mainly used by Eduard Suess for drawing up the third volume of the "The Face of the Earth", which was published in 1901. The Imperial Russian Geographical Society awarded Suess the Peter Semenov's Big Gold Medal for this volume.

In 1882, the Russian state Geological Survey (the Geological Committee) was established, whose geologists carried out regular studies all over Russia. Results of these works were published annually in "Proceedings of the Geological Committee" and Suess mainly referred to these works. In 1892, the Geological Map of the European part of Russia was published (1:2.520000) which Suess used for his speech at the 7th Session of the International Geological Congress that took place in Russia.

The list of references of some chapters in "The Face of the Earth" consist of more than 30 Russian scientists, whereas the three most often cited Russian geologists are Alexander P. Karpinsky, Feodosii N. Tchernyshev and Ivan V. Musketov.

It was not only Suess who analyzed and compiled results of Russian geological and geographical research, but Russian geologists dealt with Suess' works as well, which will be demonstrated by the following situation: In the first volume of "The Face of the Earth" (1883), Suess mentioned that there could not be observed any connection between ridges of Turkestan and the Urals. In 1884, however, Karpinsky and Tchernyshev refuted this assumption by writing about the existence of such a connection in "Proceedings of the Geological Committee" (v. III, issue 2). Suess, in return, reflected on this new assumption in the third volume of his work.

The Geological Committee commissioned the professor of Moscow University, Alexey P. Pavlov, a study concerning the Volga river region, Samara Bow and Zhiguli. In the "Proceedings of the Geological Committee" (1887) Pavlov cited Suess' assumptions on the formation of this area. According to Suess this dislocation strip system

developed in Europe during the formation of the Alps and Carpathians. Pavlov assumed that the time of the Zhiguli dislocation had roughly correlated with the epoch of these enormous dislocations which had resulted in the formation of the Alps in Europe and large mountain ridges in Asia. Pavlov's investigations confirmed Suess' assumptions.



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