

*Geological exploration in Murzuq Basin*

*edited by Sola, M.A. & Worsley, D., 2000, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 519 pp. Hardcover.*

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The Murzuq Basin is a large intracratonic basin in southwestern Libya, straddling the boundaries of Algeria, Niger and Chad. The discovery of the giant 'Elephant' oil field in this region considerably boosted the interest for this remote area and it is now assumed that this area will develop into a major oil province.

The twenty-four regular papers collected in this book arose from the geological conference on exploration in the Murzuq Basin, which was held in Sabha, Libya, from September 20-22, 1998. In addition, the book contains a nine-page bibliography, covering all relevant public domain literature of this particular area. The book reflects the wide chronostratigraphical range (from Precambrian to Holocene) of the rocks in the Murzuq Basin and nearby areas and also deals with a large variety of geological topics. About half of the papers are directly related to petroleum geology. The other contributions cover topics like paleontology, biostratigraphy, ore geology and hydrogeology.

The book provides an excellent overview of the geology of this relatively under-explored area. Despite the omnipresence of nomenclature discrepancies, the editors have done an extremely good job in consistently reviewing this wide array of papers. Therefore, it is a pity that various illustrations have been reproduced in a fairly unsatisfactory way. The seismic sections shown in the contribution by Jerry Smart (Chapter 19), for instance, would have contributed much more to the quality of the chapter if they would have been reproduced in their original colour. This would have justified the relatively high price of the book!

In conclusion, the book is highly recommended to both those interested in this particular frontier exploration area and those dealing with the various specializations.

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