
The chott region of central ("presaharan") Tunisia includes three major salt lakes that occupy a syncline between the folded Atlas ranges to the north and the stable Sahara, which forms the mass to the south. The origin of these salt lakes has given rise to much speculation that is superseded by Coque's well-written and well-documented account. Although the chott is on the basal Pleistocene, the two may be identical, the chott being a relic formation. Recent studies have also revealed that there are electric discharges in the area, and that these discharges have been responsible for the formation of the lake. The lake is fed by the Ghar el Melha river, which flows into the lake from the east. The lake is 15 km long and 8 km wide, and has a maximum depth of 3 m. The water is brackish, with a salinity of about 20 parts per thousand. The lake is relatively shallow, and its surface area is 50 km². The lake is known for its rich fish fauna, which includes 20 species of fish, including the important commercial species, Sardinella aurita.


The textbook is prepared for a two- or three-hour course for the general education program as it occurs in most universities and colleges. The textbook presents a volume whose pages are 9 x 8 inches, with margins of just under three inches. In places the marginal area is used for diagrams and illustrations but on many pages it is blank, and books are something of a space for photographs many pictures bleed to the edge of the page, giving the impression of attractive spaces. Accompanying the textbook is a laboratory manual and an instructor's guide suggesting projects and quiz questions.

The subject matter includes an introduction to astronomy, geology, meteorology, climatology, and earth history. There is, of course, minimal coverage of these topics considering the volume of text material. The book is well written, and the material is presented in a logical manner. There are several appendices at the end of the book, which include a list of references, a glossary, and a bibliography.

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY


Land and agricultural problems have, for many years, been a concern of the ruling authorities of China. Before the twentieth century, China's economy was based almost entirely on agriculture. These two books are among the few available publications specifically about China's agrarian systems.

Using a wide range of source materials including local gazetteers (Fang-chih) and various data kept for tax purposes by the Ming and Ch'ing governments, Perkins traces China's long-term agricultural development from the beginning of the Ming dynasty to the present. The central theme of the book is that by increasing the grain yield per mou and by expanding the acreage of cultivated land, China was able to cope with the problems of increasing population and stagnating agriculture technology during the past 600 years. Much pertinent data and many convincing arguments are found in the chapters on the development of improved seeds, crop patterns, farm implements, water control, fertilizers, and land tenure. Of particular geographic interest are the two chapters on "Rural Marketing and Its Impact on Farm Output" and "Urbanization, Famine, and the Market for Grain" which describe lucidly the internal trade of agricultural commodities in terms of supply and demand. Attractive handlings of maps, maps, and a series of lectures for a course in earth science. As a text for such a course it appears to have value, but, for little to challenge the better student or the upper-classman. It could be used in a secondary course in earth science as well as in a college class.

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HUMAN GEOGRAPHY


Harry Robinson's name is not new one on the textbook scene in Great Britain or abroad. This book is a companion to earlier Macdonald & Evans Handbook Series offerings. The expressed purpose of the handbook is to provide the student with basic essentials of human geography for examination preparation. Fort this it is adequate. The handbooks are divided into nine chapters: the