



Geomorphology in the Tropics: A Study of Weathering and Denudation in Low Latitudes

Michael F. Thomas

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Many advances have been made in our understanding of tropical geomorphology in recent decades, but the field remains relatively neglected. With current widespread concern about the damage to tropical ecosystems, it is time for a new study of geomorphology in the tropics. The author endeavours to provide a tropical perspective on geomorphology, rather than a compartmentalised "tropical" geomorphology. The importance of weathering and the materials of the weathered mantle in determining the outcome of erosional processes is emphasised. The impact of Quaternary climate changes in creating superficial forms and deposits is stressed as being fundamental in the tropics as in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, the tropical landscape exhibits forms and deposits that have evolved over long time-periods in the absence of frost and ice, justifying an evolutionary approach to the long-term development of landscape. The book is important to a broad spectrum of earth science interests including geotechnical and engineering studies, and soil science, as well as to students of geomorphology. People working in the tropics will encounter the processes and products of tropical denudation systems, and the fragile nature of many of the surface materials discussed in this volume demands a deeper understanding of their behaviour. No other book currently attempts this task and this study fills a serious gap in the literature of geomorphology.

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