



Plate tectonics is a revolutionary theory on a par with modern genetics. Yet, apart from the frequent use of clichés such as ‘tectonic shift’ by economists, journalists, and politicians, the science itself is rarely mentioned and poorly understood. This book explains modern plate tectonics in a non-technical manner, showing not only how it accounts for phenomena such as great earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, but also how it controls conditions at the Earth’s surface, including global geography and climate. The book presents the advances that have been made since the establishment of plate tectonics in the 1960s, highlighting, on the 50th anniversary of the theory, the contributions of a small number of scientists who have never been widely recognized for their discoveries. Ultimately, the book leads to the startling conclusion that, without plate tectonics, the Earth would be as lifeless as Venus.

Roy Livermore is Associate Lecturer at The Open University.

‘Far from being a dense, jargon-laden history book, Livermore brings an accessible writing style and brilliant humour to the story, which certainly had me chuckling.’

Jonathan Scafidi, The Geological Society

‘... a super read; I thoroughly enjoyed it! If you have the slightest interest in the history of plate tectonics, do read this book—you will not be disappointed!’

Michael Brown, International Geology Review

‘*The Tectonic Plates are Moving!* is a rock-solid read . . . the pacing of the book is great, the irreverent jokes and anecdotes genuinely amusing, the overview of different schools of thought balanced, and the explanations lucid.’

The Inquisitive Biologist

‘This is a thoroughly enjoyable book, written from the point of view of a knowledgeable insider.’

Roger Searle, Durham University, UK

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