



Geomorphic Responses to Climatic Change

By William B. Bull

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Climatic change and tectonics are two of the most current and intensively studied topics in geomorphology (and paleontology) today. In this volume, the first of a two volume set, the response of landscapes to climatic change is discussed in light of the author's research over the past decade. Professor Bull first presents conceptual models for changing landscapes, then tests and develops concepts in a topical approach, using as his base his extensive experience in the Middle East, western North America, and New Zealand. The basic topics of climate and paleoclimatology, vegetation, soils genesis, and geochronology are discussed in each chapter as essential background and to assess the responses of geomorphic processes to climatic change. Descriptions of present climates are compared with paleoclimatic inferences. Geomorphic thresholds, feedback mechanisms, and response times to perturbations are common themes in the book, which is written primarily for graduate students and researchers.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A truly delightful expedition into the thoughts of a field scientist. The jewels and wisdom acquired through decades of field insight and innovative perspectives are prepared on the platter of climatic geomorphology. . . .the vast majority of this book is new, uncut, and incredibly insightful. . . .An elegant and innovative conceptual treatment of how advances in process geomorphology over the past four decades can be merged with an understanding of the details of landforms to explain landscape morphogenesis. . . .In summary, the joy of this book is the wonderful insight and field-based experience of the author. I was the first in line to prepay for this book, and it was worth every penny and more." --Progress in Physical Geography

"In the literature of geomorphology there are some excellent syntheses, some outstanding texts, but only a few classics based on individual research. . . .Bull's book may well come to join their ranks." --Nature

"This book contains a number of provocative ideas concerning traditional topics in fluvial geomorphology, and it has many important strengths that revolve around the central theme of fluvial response to climactic change. This is a fine piece of work and will be a valuable reference to students of geomorphology, Quaternary geology, and archaeological geology. For the archaeological geologist, the strength of this book lies in the range of pertinent issues raised, and how it manages to synthesize, in great detail, large bodies of complex data that bear on the variability and complexity of fluvial response to climactic change. In doing so, it provides an excellent example of the holistic, multidisciplinary approach necessary for these types of studies." --Geoarchaeology

"The book is very well written, with excellent black-and-white photographic illustrations. This book would be excellent as a graduate-level text in the geosciences or as a professional reference book. It does an outstanding job of describing the theory and mechanics of how climate effects drive geomorphology and how they are recognized in surficial geologic deposits and landforms. This book would be useful to those climatologists who are intewrested in the gritty details of this geomorphic evidence." --Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society

"A Necessary addition to earth science libraries. Its production is excellent, with clear text, . . . good illustrations, and useful supporting material." --Choice

"Provides an ambitious and timely examination of alterations in earth surface processes, landforms, and sedimentary deposits, as well as major, long-term (glacial-interglacial) climatic shifts. . . . relevant not only to academicians but also to geologists and engineers. Perhaps the book's most important contribution is its example of using an interdisciplinary approach to solve complex geomorphic problems." --GSA Today (Geological Society of America)

"The text is very well written and the diagrams are well designed and attractive. . . . the book will probably be appealing for its examples of very striking terrace sequences and clear descriptions of geomorphic models. . . . excellent examples of dated landscape change, clear treatment of theoretical aspects of geomorphology and review of dating techniques applicable to alluvial geomorphological surfaces." --Holocene book reviews

"The extensive and detailed analyses presented in chapters 2 through 5 are testimony to Bull's skills as a field scientist, his powers of observation and interpretation, and his dedication to his trade. The richness and

quality of data presented in these pages will be invaluable to posterity." --Geographical Review

"The focus and emphasis of the book will be welcomed by those teaching Quaternary geomorphology."
Quaternary Research

"The book is written in a very clear, systematic and well comprehensible way. Diagrams are quite illustrative and helpful. . . written primarily for graduate students and people with basic knowledge of geomorphology. . . this well-written and reasonably-priced book deals with the most modern approaches of climatic geomorphology and is therefore highly recommended to all people interested in or concerned with fluvial geomorphology." --Geologie en Mijnbouw

About the Author

William B. Bull is at University of Arizona.

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