

# THE GEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF TIBET

Report of the 1985 Royal Society–Academia Sinica Geotraverse  
of Xizang–Qinghai Plateau

Led by **Chang Chengfa, Robert M. Shackleton, F.R.S.,  
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The Tibetan Plateau is a region that, because of its remoteness, elevation and mystery, has excited adventurers and explorers for centuries. It has also fascinated Earth scientists, who have regarded it as the type example of collision tectonics: collision between the Indian and Eurasian continents. This book presents the results of a two-month Geotraverse made in 1985 through cooperation between Academia Sinica and the Royal Society. Data from a wide range of geological methods are presented, along with a coloured geological map\* of the region traversed. The final chapter gives our conclusions about the geological evolution of the plateau by successive accretion of terranes to the Eurasian continent, the collision of the Indian and Eurasian continents, the doubling in thickness of the Tibetan crust and the dramatic Recent uplift of the plateau.

\* *The map (scale 1 : 125,000) is in two sections, each approximately one metre square. In the book these are printed back to back on one sheet, and folded to fit into a pocket inside the back cover.*

*The set of maps may also be purchased without the book, the two sections being printed separately on individual sheets and rolled in tubes.*

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