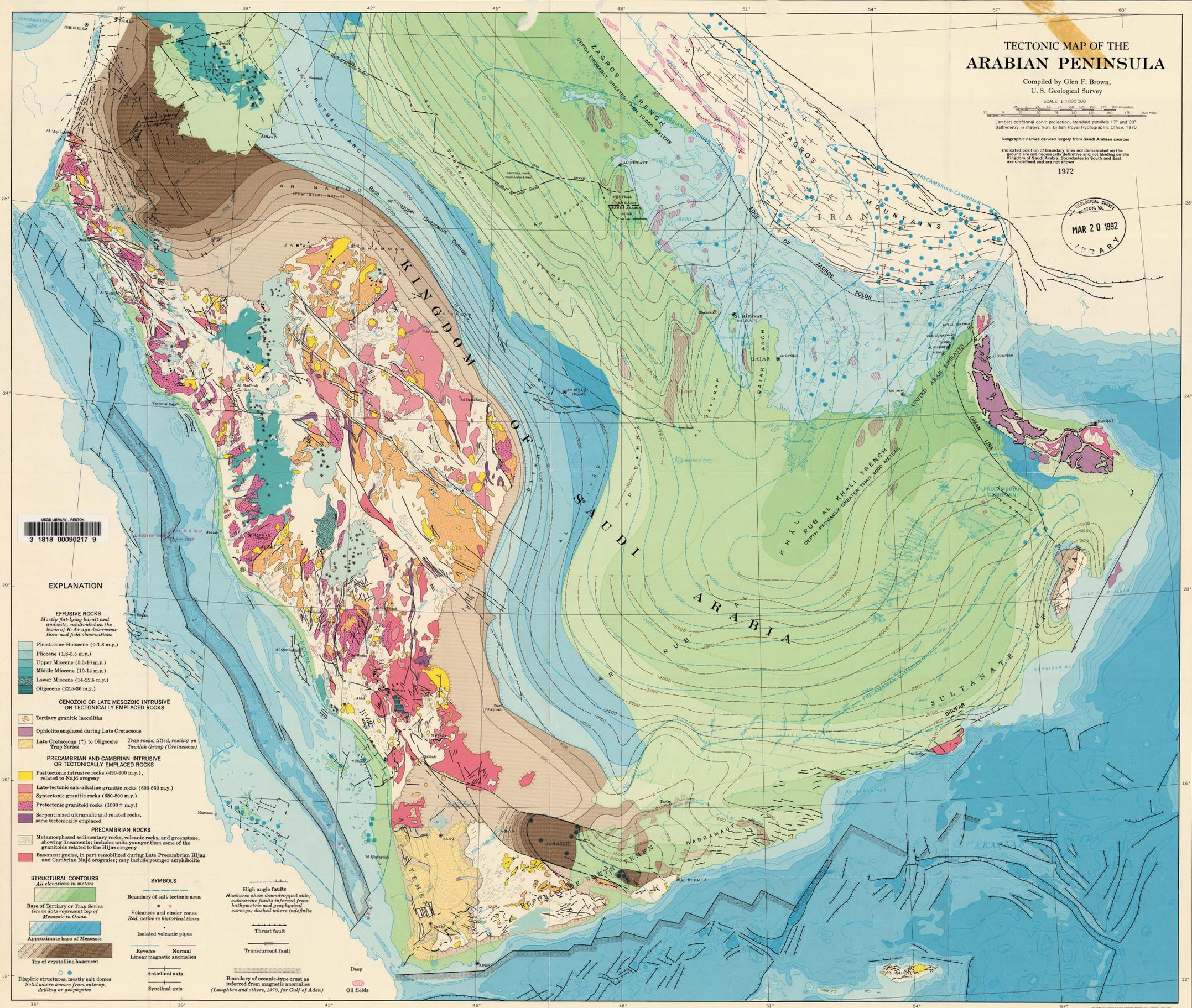


TECTONIC MAP OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Compiled by Glen F. Brown,
U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE 1:4,000,000
Sambart conformal conic projection, standard parallels 17° and 33°
Bathymetry in meters from British Royal Hydrographic Office, 1970



EXPLANATION

Introduction
This tectonic map of the Arabian Peninsula, prepared for the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, is the first of a series of maps that attempt to show regional features. Much recent information resulting from detailed geologic mapping mostly within the Arabian craton, from geophysical surveys, both airborne and oceanographic in adjacent seas, from deep exploratory drilling, and from photography from the Gemini and Apollo space programs, has been used in the tectonic evaluation.

Sources of information
Various segments of the Arabian Shield or craton have been mapped by members of the Saudi Arabian Directorate General of Mineral Resources, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières de France, the Japanese Geological Survey, and the U.S. Geological Survey (see index map). Detailed maps were consulted, of which the U.S. Geological Survey Arabian American Oil Company (1963) geological map of the Arabian Peninsula, the topographic map of the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabian Dir.-Gen. Mineral Resources, 1972), and the new bathymetric maps of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (Laughton, 1970; Laughton and others, 1970) were the principal sources. The Directorate General of Petroleum Resources of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources supplied evaluation of formation tops in oil exploration test holes, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water gave similar information from borings drilled for water to depths of 2,400 m or less, except for a test at Riyadh which was drilled to 3,000 m.

Geologic map
The geologic map of Iran (Iran Oil Co., 1937) provided source data for the salt domes and salt domes in southern Iran, as did later published (Kamen-Kave, 1970) and unpublished information. Information on salt tectonics in Iraq from Stocklin (1968), Beydoun (1964), and Frazier (1970). In addition, earlier work on salt domes along the eastern shore of the Red Sea (Mac Paden, Cook, and Brighton, 1940) are noted. The tectonic interpretation of northwestern Arabia has been adjusted to that shown for Jordan (Bender, 1968). Nappe structures shown in the Oman Mountains follow the description of Reinhardt (1969). Faults shown on the peninsula are mostly from geologic maps (U.S. Geol. Survey, 1963; Bender, 1968; Gilman, 1968; and Beydoun, 1970), and fault extensions are plotted from satellite photography. Faults in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are inferred from submarine observations as shown on the British Hydrographic Office charts (Laughton, Whitmarsh, and Jones, 1970) and by Phillips and Ross (1970). Structure maps of the peninsula compiled by Andre and Dubertret (1968) have been helpful for general interpretation.

The crystalline shield
Basement gneiss is believed to represent the oldest rocks exposed in the Arabian Shield, although it has not been dated radiometrically. In places massive bodies of the gneiss occupy diapiric structures upward through younger sedimentary rocks and north-south-trending transverse faults. Some gneissic bodies are sheared. Some bodies have an intrusive aspect, as though reactivation approached plutonism, and these may actually be regenerated and therefore younger. Most of the rocks are orthogneisses derived from diorite, quartz diorite, granodiorite, or granite, and are in the amphibolite metamorphic facies, although some are greenschist and others, questionably, are granite. One large rock pendant at the east edge of the Shield is almost entirely metamorphosed; elsewhere paragneiss crops out.

Greenwood and Bleeker (1967) have described three outcrops of older gneiss in South Yemen. Two are along the upthrust southern flank of a fault striking southeast from Sa'dah into the Hadramaut in a structure similar to that along the southern segment of the Najd fault system in Saudi Arabia. The third outcrop is in southwestern South Yemen and is opposite the Harrar Massif of Ethiopia and Somalia in Africa, which is considered Archean (Kazmin, 1971). Kazmin's brief description and the geographic position of the African gneiss suggest that it may be correlative with older gneiss of South Yemen and with basement gneiss of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The oldest radiometrically dated rocks are granodiorite and related quartz diorite exposed in the vicinity of Mecca and in discontinuous outcrops to the north and east (shown as older granitic rocks, 1,000 m.y.). Rb-Sr ages determined by L. T. Aldrich of the Carnegie Institution, as shown on the geologic map of Southern Hijaz (Brown and others, 1962), average about 1,000 m.y. These determinations, together with somewhat younger K-Ar ages, point to a plutonic episode correlative with or slightly younger than the African Kibaran orogeny of about 1,100-2,000 m.y. (Clifford, 1970).

Younger plutonic rocks are classified as somewhat arbitrary time units (synthesized and late tectonic (related to the Hijaz orogeny), and post-tectonic (related to the Najd orogeny) stages; the isotopic ages of these rocks come within the time span of 800-400 m.y., primarily on the basis of 50 determinations made by the author. The locations of the dated samples are shown on geologic maps at 1:500,000 scale (Brankamp and others, 1964; 1964; Brown and others, 1962, 1963a, b; and Jackson and others, 1963).

The syntectonic rocks date from about 800 to 650 m.y., the late tectonic from 650 to 600 m.y., and the post-tectonic from about 600-400 m.y. The syntectonic stage has, among its diagnostic features, gneissic or migmatitic schlieren and xenoliths. These rocks are mostly diorite or granodiorite, with four samples of quartz diorite averaging near 800 m.y. The late tectonic granitic rocks tend to be calc-alkaline and massive, but in places they show metamorphic layering and porphyritic zones. The post-tectonic plutons are alkaline or alkali-feldspathic, and are commonly characterized by the presence of sodic pyroxenes, arfvedsonite, riebeckite, or actinolite, they are widely varied in silica content, ranging from gabbro to granite and from syenite to highly silicic alkalic granite.

This grouping by stages is based on the structural forms and textures of the granitic rocks as well as on a general trend from basic calc-alkaline (older) through peralkalic types (younger). The stages possibly represent more than one magmatic cycle, but may also be dependent on the level of exposure of the plutonic masses, the gneissic, syntectonic types being generally more characteristic of root zones of batholiths, and the discordant post-tectonic forms typical of roof zones. This general magmatic cycle appears to be synchronous with the polyphase East African "Mozambique" orogeny (sensu lato) which extends northward from East Africa into Arabia (Bloomfield, 1970; Kazmin, 1971).

However, the fold-fault pattern of the Shield surface, together with what is known of the stratigraphy of the nonplutonic rocks in the mid- and northern parts of the Shield at about the same time, characteristically the orogeny was dominated by east-west compression, and the strongly folded, faulted (some strike-slip), and locally overthrust beds crop out in meridional or north-northeast-trending belts and lineaments. Greenstone zones, clastic material, and some mafic with ultramafic rocks crop out in places, and older beds contain evidence of retrogressive metamorphism to the greenschist facies in other areas. Younger clastic rocks were also metamorphosed during east-west compression, but only locally to greenschist facies, perhaps during the dying phases of the Hijaz orogeny.

The name Najd orogeny, a name taken from the classical Arabic for the highlands east of the Hijaz ranges in central Arabia, is here applied to a younger period of mountainbuilding and orogenesis. Effects of the younger and shallower movements are most characteristically seen in the system of north-south-trending left-lateral faults referred to as the Najd fault system by Delfour (1970). Serpentinized ultramafic and related rock masses, possibly representing damberebed ophiolites among the older rocks of the Shield, have been left-laterally displaced as much as 25 km, are left-laterally displaced about 25 km near the northwestern end of the Najd fault system; a gabbroic lopolith is displaced left-laterally 9 km (Iqbal, written commun., 1970); another fault displaces the same gabbro about 2 km (Higashimura, written commun., 1970). Although some granitic rocks of the Najd orogeny come into place under differential pressure and from during the orogeny, most were emplaced late or after the faulting. Numerous widely scattered granitic samples average 570 m.y. by K-Ar age determinations, and slightly older by Rb-Sr determinations, and may date the early part of the Najd orogeny. The post-tectonic alkalic intrusives generally occupy stocks and pipes, although six rather large batholiths also date from the Najd period.

The youngest cratonized group in the Shield, the J'Balah Group (Delfour, 1970), crops out along the northwest-trending strike-slip faults of the Najd system and is limited almost entirely to valley floors or grabens developed in the abandoned rocks of the fault zones. The J'Balah Group postdates most of the movement on the faults of the Shield craton. It is nonthrust folded and synforms are asymmetrical, with steeper limbs toward the northeast within the narrow outcrop belts, a result of post-J'Balah fault movement. Andesite flow rock within the J'Balah Group has yielded a K-Ar whole-rock age of 540 ± 18 m.y., determined by Richard Marvin, H. H. Hahnert, and Volk Merrett of the U.S. Geological Survey (written commun.). Related andesite flows and intrusives in the northern part of the Shield average 519 ± 17 m.y. by K-Ar determinations on whole rock and biotite from widely scattered localities.

Younger age determinations have been reported for rocks near the Precambrian Shield but their relationship to orogeny is not known. K-Ar ages as young as 470 m.y. have been reported from eastern South Yemen (Shilling in Greenwood and Bleeker, 1967), and several Rb-Sr dates cluster around 500 m.y. for post-rift granitic correlative with quartz porphyry intrusives into the Cambrian of Jordan (Bender, written commun., 1971).

Najd orogeny apparently involved at least two periods of igneous activity, interrupted by long quiescent intervals and intermittent fault movements. The time span is similar to that of the Katsangan-Damara Pan-African orogeny, and the youngest plutons in general are along the eastern shore of the Red Sea and along the eastern edge of the Arabian Shield.

The Hijaz and Najd orogenies represent two tectonic cycles that have resulted from different primary forces. Rotation of a proto-Arabian plate may have been a contributing force. The older Hijaz folding and plutonism may have occurred at greater depth, whereas the younger Najd orogeny may reflect shears from shallower movement. The time and tectonic history appear to closely parallel events in the central African Hoggar (Baker and Girod, 1970).

Structural contours
Structural contours on the subterranean extension of crystalline and unconformated rocks exposed in the Shield area are based on drill records for drill holes as deep as 2,000 m. Below that depth extrapolated

stratigraphic thicknesses and geophysical interpretation are used, and the slope is speculative, especially where the surface plunges into the trough parallel to the Zagros Mountains and the Oman Line. One of the factors that prevents simple analysis is a wedge of Carboniferous and older Paleozoic strata that extends across the peninsula. Furthermore, because the sedimentary rocks in the upper part of the Precambrian and the overlying Cambrian are not thoroughly recrystallized, as for example in Jordan and in the western Rub' al Khali south of the Arabian Shield, stratigraphic thicknesses projected into the subsurface from measured outcrop profiles are likely to differ from those based on geophysical interpretation. At Badahah (near the north edge of the map) a test well entered the Devonian at a depth of 1,380 m. If the nearby outcrop thickness of the underlying Paleozoic strata is added to this depth, the depth to basement would be about 2,800 m below sea level. An earlier estimate of the basement in this area is about 2,000 m, which seems reasonable, however, airborne magnetic profiles across the Badahah area suggest a depth of about 6,700 m magnetic basement, and a depth analysis based on a regional gravity survey west of Badahah indicates a basement depth of basement of 5,000 m (Andersen, written commun., 1971). In a deep test boring for water near Riyadh, about 750 m of upper Paleozoic or possibly lower Mesozoic sedimentary beds were penetrated below the depth of the basement there is probably at least 1,300 m below sea level. In the western Rub' al Khali at least 1,100 m of Paleozoic strata were exposed. These structural data together with those from the Badahah boring have been used to extrapolate basement contours adjusted to limited geophysical information.

Two troughs are apparent, one parallel to the Arabian Gulf in southwestern Iran and one nearly at right angles to it beneath the northeastern Rub' al Khali and extending northward along the western side of the Oman Line. However, there is insufficient information to complete the contouring. At Riyadh, contours on the top Miñir Sandstone, together with the information from the deep test boring, indicate westerly lateral or down-dip normal-fault movement along the north side of the Dhrumab-Nisab fault system. This system is synmetamorphic to the sinistral strike-slip faults within the Shield and beneath the Paleozoic strata of Riyadh. The eastward extension of the Dhrumab-Nisab fault system south of Riyadh and the southern end of the oil-field structures that are identified by north-south trending, notably the large Sana'a structure and the Qatar arch as well. Further east an eastward extension of the faults may coincide with the northern edge of the structural depression of the northeastern Rub' al Khali. An extension of the Dhrumab-Nisab fault system represents a major change in tectonic development with the crust to the south having been folded and deepened progressively eastward toward the Oman Line.

Salt tectonics
Boundaries are drawn around areas where diapiric salt structures have been mapped or have been reported from drilling or geophysical evidence. Many salt fields are located on structural highs and gravity lows that may have resulted from salt withdrawal at depth, but these are not shown as diapiric structures even though many may be. The outlined areas attempt to show the active and presumably the deeper parts of the evaporite basins. Five of the diapiric salt areas are above the late Precambrian-Cambrian Hormuz basin which underlies much of the Arabian Gulf geosyncline and which has contributed salt to the Hormuz extend southward into the Oman below 21° north latitude and salt has been encountered in exploratory wells along the north side of the Dhufar still farther south near the southern coast of the Peninsula.

The town of Sa'dah in the north is in a graben of Jurassic calc-alkaline rocks (Geukens, 1966) that extends southward toward Wadi Hadramaut between border faults that can be clearly seen on Apollo and Gemini space photographs. Nine salt domes have been mapped (Beydoun, 1964) in the lower southern part of the graben; accordingly basement contours have been tentatively added and sufficient for the diapiric structure to develop. It is assumed that local stress resulting from opening of the Gulf of Aden was partially effective in causing the salt domes to form. The evaporite series containing the salt is assigned to the Upper Jurassic.

The youngest salt-tectonic basins contain Miocene salt. The largest basin in the Red Sea. Whether the Red Sea trough arched and broke in early Tertiary time, or the Arabian rifted apart and the Red Sea formed at the same time is still being debated by geologists and geophysicists (Falcon and others, 1970; Picard, 1970; Dubertret, 1968). Regardless of origin, during middle and late Miocene time, some 3,000 m of salt was deposited in the trough northward from 14° north latitude to the Gulf of Suez and Aqaba. All reported diapiric structures have been found south of 19° north latitude, but there would seem to be no reason why similar structures may not exist farther north (Baker, 1968). At Miocene time and Pliocene volcanism is involved with the evaporite series, some piercement structures may be volcanic rocks similar to those on the Arabian Shield. Another smaller Tertiary salt-tectonic area lies along the west side of the Oman Line near the Strait of Hormuz where downbuckling is continuing.

Oman Mountains
The Oman Mountains are composed of the Semail nappes and related rocks of the ophiolite suite. They may have accumulated on the ocean floor as early as Middle or Late Permian but certainly during early Late Permian, and were subducted beneath the Arabian Shield during the Alpine orogeny as Arabia drifted against Asia (Reinhardt, 1969; Martin, 1970; Coleman, 1971). The deep downbuckling of the continental crust in the eastern segment of the Arabian Shield during the Miocene is probably the result of intensification of folding eastward culminating in the Zagros orogeny in the Iranian Plateau. The Oman Mountains are probably the result of impingement of the Arabian and Asian continental plates.

Tertiary volcanism
The oldest lavas associated with rifting of the Red Sea are a central series of plateau or flood-type basalt, andesite, trachyte, and rhyolite flows interbedded with tuff and nonmarine sedimentary rocks, some of which contain fresh-water fossils suggestive of Oligocene to Miocene age (Geukens, 1966). The lowermost flows of this so-called "Trap Series" resting on Cretaceous clastics in Yemen, are possibly of late Eocene, Cretaceous or Eocene and lie in a broad faulting antiform parallel to the Red Sea rift. Both in Yemen and Ethiopia they form the crest and steep flanks of the Red Sea rift valley. A K-Ar whole-rock analysis from a basalt feeder dike the lavas at Amara, Ethiopia, gave 30.6 ± 1.2 m.y. (analyser: isotopes, Inc.), which could be latest Eocene or earliest Oligocene. In southwestern Saudi Arabia a thick series of basalt flows ranging in age from 24 to 29 m.y. (Oligocene) is most likely an equivalent part of the Trap Series (Coleman and Brown, 1971). The Trap Series was elevated during early Tertiary time, or flowed out on an elevated surface, and then was folded and faulted during early Miocene when the rift valley was formed. Volcanic activity has continued up to the present time (fig. 1).

The Miocene to Holocene basaltic lavas are composed of alkali olivine basalt and are chemically similar to the Trap Series in Yemen and Ethiopia. The volcanic character of basalt from the mid-tranche of the Red Sea (Gass, 1970).

Samples from some flows or intrusives considered to be of Miocene age gave K-Ar Mesozoic or early Tertiary ages, probably because of excess argon inherited from older rocks. These older ages have been omitted from fig. 1. Gabbroic dikes and related intrusives, including a layered lopolith east of Jizan, give an average K-Ar age of about 22 m.y., and are all strongly and reversely magnetized. The remarkably linear reversed anomalies, extending as far north as 28° 30' north latitude to the east of the Gulf of Aqaba, are parallel to tholeiitic gabbro dikes which are only sparsely exposed along the trace of the strike-slip faults. The dikes have been dated north of Jiddah; they are undoubtedly coextensive in time with the younger middle parallel. The Red Sea trough and cut across the north-south-trending strike-slip faults, they do not follow the zig-zag pattern of the younger middle parallel. Linear magnetic anomalies are associated with antiforms of gneiss amphibolite rocks, and are related to faults; if they represent dikes, they are not the same age as the dated gabbroic dikes.

Red Sea-Gulf of Aden
Most students of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea believe these features were formed by crustal extension. The Gulf of Aden is largely underlain by oceanic crust, and its topography, structure, asymmetry, and linear magnetic anomalies fit the classical concept of ocean-floor spreading, at least for crust as old as 10 m.y. (Laughton, Whitmarsh, and Jones, 1970). The eastern limit of downbuckling associated with the Gulf of Aden is marked by the Oman Line.

The origin of the Red Sea rift is more complicated. The basin consists of an outer structural trough in which is a deep inner trench. At the north end of the outer trough, basement granite has been found at 2,900 m below sea level, beneath Quaternary and Tertiary deposits. To the south a thick series of Miocene evaporites underlies the outer trough. Both the trough and the evaporites extend as far north as 28° 30' north latitude to the east of the Gulf of Aqaba, are parallel to tholeiitic gabbro dikes which are only sparsely exposed along the trace of the strike-slip faults. The dikes have been dated north of Jiddah; they are undoubtedly coextensive in time with the younger middle parallel. The Red Sea trough and cut across the north-south-trending strike-slip faults, they do not follow the zig-zag pattern of the younger middle parallel. Linear magnetic anomalies are associated with antiforms of gneiss amphibolite rocks, and are related to faults; if they represent dikes, they are not the same age as the dated gabbroic dikes.

The inner trench in the Red Sea is underlain mostly by sedimentary volcanic material, as shown in cores obtained by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution survey ship R/V *Glomar Challenger* in March 1971 (Ross and others, written commun., 1971). Tholeiitic basalt has been recovered, apparently interpreted as oceanic crust in the floor of the Red Sea. The limits of the trench are the oceanic crust (Druke and Girdler, 1970). The limits of the trench or at right angles to the transform faults is shown as denarcating the area believed to be directly underlain by oceanic crust in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Underneath this central and younger region and the coasts may be areas by continental (granitic) or oceanic type mantle, attenuated and tilted or as alternate fragments of the two types, but certainly some of this region contains alkalic crust. The deeps, which contain basaltic lavas, are also along linear magnetic anomalies (Kabbani, 1970) which may represent a transform fault (Whitman, 1970). In rift faults onshore, basaltic dikes (5 m.y. or later) contain munitic type xenoliths, suggesting deeper sources for the continuing magmatic activity that may be related to the hot brines in the depths of the trough.

Acknowledgements
Several members of the U.S. Geological Survey helped with the compilation; geophysical surveys and interpretation were accomplished by Vincent Flanagan and G. E. Anderson. A. J. Bolender, D. L. Schmidt, J. A. Reinemund, R. G. Coleman, and Douglas Kinney reviewed the compilation. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, gave permission and patiently awaited the numerous revisions, as did Dr. Fadih Kabbani, Deputy Minister, Sheikh Hamid Mishal, Minister of Agriculture and Water, kindly permitted use of much unpublished information in the Ministry files. The Director of the Office of Petroleum, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki, kindly reviewed and corrected depths and other features in the eastern provinces. And finally numerous organizations and individuals contributed ideas and criticisms; however the compiler is solely responsible for errors and omissions.

Andre, C., and Dubertret, L., 1968. Peninsule Arabique, carte orographique, hydrographique, mens et cartes structurales. Extraits des notes et mémoires sur le Moyen-Orient. Mus. Nat. d'Histoire Naturelle, tome X, Paris, 285-318.

Bender, 1968. Geologie von Jordanien. Berlin, Gebrüder Borntraeger, 230 p. Area 1 on index map.

Bloomfield, R. P., 1964. The stratigraphy and structure of the Eastern Aden Protectorate: Overseas Geol. and Min. Res. Suppl. Series, Bull. no. 5, 107 p. Area 5 on index map.

—, 1970. Arabia and northern Somalia—comparative geology. Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 267-293. Area 2 on index map.

Black, R., and Girod, M., 1970. Late Paleozoic to Recent igneous activity in West Africa and its relationship to basement tectonics. U.S. Geol. Surv. Prof. Paper 660-B, 23 p. Area 1 on index map.

Bloomfield, R. P., 1970. Orogenic and post-orogenic plutonism in Malawi, p. 119-155. In African magmatism and tectonics: Hafner Publ. Co., New York.

Brankamp, R. A., Ramirez, L. F., Brown G. F., and Pooch, A. E., 1963. Geologic map of the Wadi al Rimah quadrangle: U.S. Geol. Surv. Geol. Map, Inv. Map I-2064.

Brankamp, R. A., Brown, G. F., Holm, D. A., and Layne, N. M., Jr., 1964. Geologic map of the Wadi al Sirhan quadrangle: U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-2043.

Brown, G. F., 1970. Eastern margin of the Red Sea and the coastal structures in Saudi Arabia: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 271-293.

Brown, G. F., Jackson, R. O., Bogue, R. G., and MacLean, W. H., 1962. Geologic map of the southern Hijaz quadrangle: U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-2104.

Brown, G. F., Jackson, R. O., Bogue, R. G., and Elber, E. J., 1963a. Geologic map of the northwestern Hijaz quadrangle: U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-2044.

Brown, G. F., Layne, N. M., Goudari, G. H., and MacLean, W. H., 1963b. Geologic map of the northeastern Hijaz quadrangle: U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-2054.

Clifford, T. N., 1971. Plate tectonic development of Africa, p. 1-26. In African magmatism and tectonics: Hafner Publ. Co., New York.

Coleman, R. G., 1971. Plate tectonic development of upper mantle peridotites along continental edges: Jour. Geophys. Res., 76, no. 5, p. 2117-2122.

Coleman, R. G., and Brown, G. F., 1971. Volcanism in southwest Saudi Arabia (aba): Geol. Soc. America, Abs., v. 3, no. 7, p. 529.

Delfour, J., 1970. Le Groupe de Thalab, une nouvelle unité du bouclier arabe: Bull. du BRGM, Deux. serie, ser. IV, no. 4, p. 19-32.

Dickman, D. R., and others, 1969. Correlation of Inter-SMR with Rb-Sr ages in some late Tertiary volcanic rocks of South Arabia: Earth Planetary Sci. Letters 6 (1969), p. 84-90.

Druke, C. K., and Girdler, R. W., 1964. A geophysical study of the Red Sea: Royal Astron. Soc. Geophys. Jour., v. 8, p. 473-495.

Dubertret, Louis, 1969. Le Liban et la derive des continents: Rev. Libanaise de geologie, v. 17, no. 1, p. 1-10.

Organizers for a discussion on the structure and evolution of the Red Sea and the nature of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Ethiopia rift: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, 417 p.

Frazier, S. B., 1970. The diastrophic structure of the northern part of the Red Sea coast including Duhuk, Kebr and inland: Geol. of Zalla: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 121-131.

Gass, I. G., 1970. The evolution of volcanism in the junction area of the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Ethiopia rifts: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 269-283.

Geukens, F., 1966. Geology of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen: U.S. Geol. Surv. Prof. Paper 660-B, 23 p. Area 1 on index map.

Gilman, Michel, 1968. Preliminary results of a geological and geophysical reconnaissance of the Jizan coastal plain in Saudi Arabia: AIME Symp. 2nd Region, Dhrumab, Saudi Arabia, p. 159-209.

Girdler, R. W., 1969. The Red Sea—a geophysical background, p. 38-55. In Hot brines and recent heavy metal deposits in the Red Sea: A geochemical and geophysical account: Springer-Verlag, New York.

Girdler, R. W., and Darracot, R. W., 1972. African poles of rotation: Comments on the Earth Sciences, Geophysics 2, p. 745.

Greenwood, J. E. G., and Bleeker, D., 1967. Geology of the Arabian Peninsula, Aden Protectorate: U.S. Geol. Surv. Prof. Paper 560-C, 96 p. Area 4 on index map.

Iran Oil Co., Geological Survey, 1937. Geological Map of Iran: Nat. Iran Oil Co. (1:250,000). Area 7 on index map.

Jackson, R. O., Bogue, R. G., Brown, G. F., and Girdler, R. W., D., 1963. Geologic map of the Southern Hijaz quadrangle: U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-2114.

Kabbani, F. K., 1970. Geophysical and structural aspects of the central Red Sea rift valley: Roy. Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 89-97.

Kamen-Kave, Maurice, 1970. Geology and productivity of Persian Gulf synclinalism: Am. Assoc. Petroleum Geologists Bull., v. 54, no. 12, p. 2271-2291.

Kazmin, V., 1971. Precambrian of Ethiopia: Nature Phys. Sci., v. 230, p. 176-177.

Laughton, A. S., 1970. A new bathymetric chart of the Red Sea: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 21-22. Area 8 on index map.

Laughton, A. S., Whitmarsh, R. B., and Jones, M. T., 1970. The evolution of the Gulf of Aden: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 227-266. Area 9 on index map.

MacFadyen, W. A., Cox, L. R., and Brighton, A. G., 1930. The geology of the Farsan Islands, Gian and Karaman Island, Red Sea: Geol. Mag. (Great Britain), v. 47, p. 310-315; addendum, v. 48, pp. 33-37.

McKenzie, D. P., 1970. Plate tectonics of the Mediterranean region: Nature, v. 226, p. 239-243.

McKenzie, D. P., Davies, J., and Molnar, P., 1970. Plate tectonics of the Red Sea and East Africa: Nature, v. 226, p. 243-248.

Phillips, J. D., and Ross, D. A., 1970. Continuous seismic reflection profiles in the Red Sea: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 114-133.

Picard, L., 1970. On Afro-Arabian tectonics: Geol. Rundschau, v. 59, p. 337-381.

Reinhardt, H. M., 1969. On the genesis and emplacement of ophiolites in the Oman Mountains geosyncline: Schweiz. Mineral. u. Petrog. Mitt., v. 49, no. 1. Area 6 on index map.

Saudi Arabian Dir. Gen. Mineral Resources, 1972. Topographic Map of the Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia Directorate General of Mineral Resources Map, 1:4,000,000 scale.

Schmidt, D. L., Hadley, D. G., Greenwood, W. R., Gonzalez, Louis, Coleman, R. G., and Brown, G. F., 1972. The stratigraphy and tectonics of the Precambrian Shield in the southern part of Saudi Arabia: U.S. Geol. Surv. Interagency rept. 139. Open file rept. 36. Stocklin, Joan, 1968. Salt deposits of the Middle East: Geol. Soc. America Spec. Paper 88, p. 157-181.

Trammontin, C., and Davies, D., 1969. A seismic refraction survey in the Red Sea: Royal Astron. Soc. Geophys. Jour., v. 17, no. 2, p. 225-241.

U.S. Geological Survey-Arabian American Oil Company, 1963. Geologic Map of the Arabian Peninsula: U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Geol. Inv. Map I-2074, Areas 2, 3, and 4 on the index map.

Whitman, A. J., 1970. The existence of transform faults in the Red Sea depression: Royal Soc. London Philos. Trans., v. A267, p. 407-408.

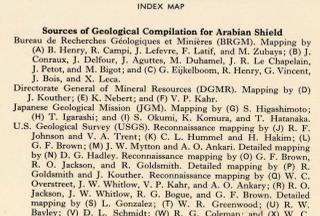


Figure 1. Histogram of K-Ar radiometric ages of basaltic flows and hypabyssal intrusives in the Arabian Peninsula. Each square represents one flow or intrusive, in some cases an average of several samples. Where multiple flow basalt occur, the uppermost and lowermost flows were sampled. All samples were whole-rock except one of labradorite. Determinations made by Haggens, Inc. and F. Marvin, H. H. Hahnert, and Volk Merrett. U.S. Geological Survey, except two samples from South Yemen made by D. C. Rex (Dickinson and others, 1969).

M(200) R290 no. 12-52 c.1