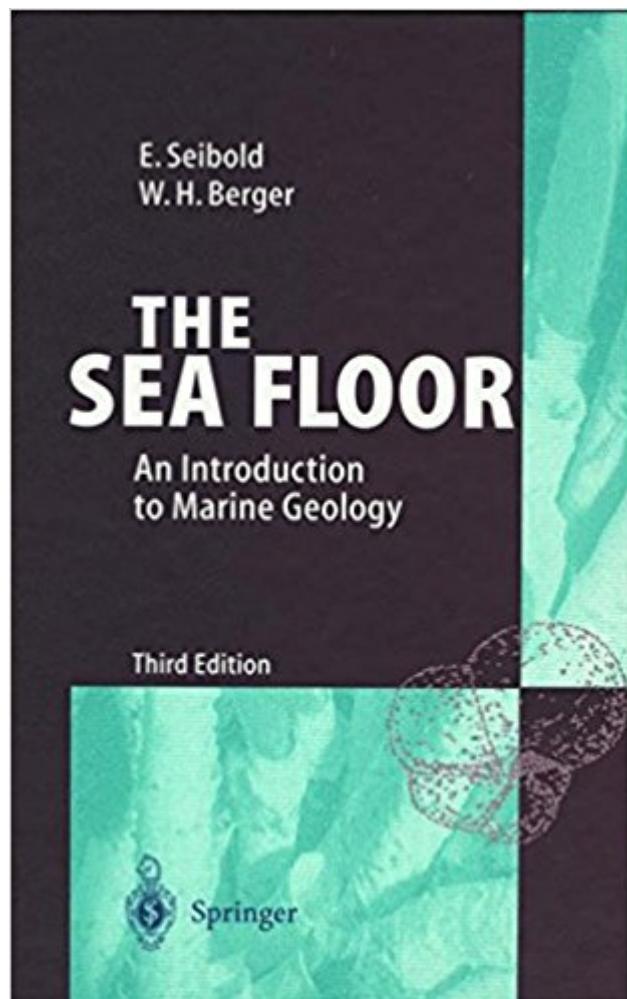


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# The Sea Floor



## Synopsis

Man's understanding of how this planet is put together and how it evolved has changed radically during the last 30 years. This great revolution in geology - now usually subsumed under the concept of Plate Tectonics - brought the realization that convection within the Earth is responsible for the origin of today's ocean basins and continents, and that the grand features of the Earth's surface are the product of ongoing large-scale horizontal motions. Some of these notions were put forward earlier in this century (by A. Wegener, in 1912, and by A. Holmes, in 1929), but most of the new ideas were an outgrowth of the study of the ocean floor after World War II. In its impact on the earth sciences, the plate tectonics revolution is comparable to the upheaval wrought by the ideas of Charles Darwin (1809-1882), which started the intense discussion on the evolution of the biosphere that has recently heated up again. Darwin drew his inspiration from observations on island life made during the voyage of the Beagle (1831-1836), and his work gave strong impetus to the first global oceanographic expedition, the voyage of HMS Challenger (1872- 1876). Ever since, oceanographic research has been intimately associated with fundamental advances in the knowledge of Earth. This should come as no surprise. After all, our planet's surface is mostly ocean.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book comprehends the main aspects relating to the "ocean world". Its pages contain from basic information on the oceans' origin and history to the major advanced investigations on variations of the mean sea-level using microfossils (foraminifera). This book contains basic information for

geology and oceanography undergraduate and master students.

The 3rd edition of this book, published in 1996, is identical to the 2nd edition published in 1993. The only difference I could find was the design of the cover page. If you already own a copy of the 2nd edition, you don't have to buy the newer edition because there is nothing new in the 3rd edition. Just don't be confused.

There are not many books available concerning the sea floor, especially the deep sea floor. With regards to growing interest of humankind to the mineral resources on the deep seabed any information is important. To be ready for exploitation of polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides, cobalt-bearing crusts or methane hydrates one must know the seabed environment in details. And this book contents them.

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