

imagination on the regulation of future sea-level rise by major engineering schemes to divert water from the oceans into depressions on the continents.

Overall this volume reflects the rich mix of sea-level research, ranging from tried-and-tested approaches applied to new areas, to topics pointing the way for future research. Observation and data gathering remain dominant, rigorous hypothesis testing is sometimes less apparent.

As a final comment on the volume itself; it is likely to remain a library book, consulted for reference purposes rather than a key text on individuals bookshelves. This is not because of the quality of papers, but the price. Recent books on similar topics, aimed at the same audience, are available at about one third of the cost.

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Les déplacements des lignes de rivage en Méditerranée, edited by R. Paskof and P. Troussset 1987. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, no price given (Soft cover) 225 pp., ISBN 2-222-04074-4.

A partial proceedings of an international colloquium sponsored by C.N.R.S. and the Commission sur l'environnement côtier de l'Union géographique internationale (I.G.U.), this volume deals with shoreline displacement around the Mediterranean. The papers are in French but contain English summaries. Various lines of archaeological evidence are brought to bear on the problem of shoreline displacement and are evaluated along with interpretations from the physical sciences. The volume is divided into three main parts *viz.* (I) Spain, France, Africa, (II) Italy, and (III) Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, and the Persian Gulf area.

A wide range of field and laboratory techniques are discussed as they relate to interpretation of archaeological finds. The archaeological data (sometimes in the form of ancient inscriptions and texts) help provide a relative chronology and morphologic interpretation of ancient shorelines. In the case of the Ebro delta (Spain), for example, artifacts indicate that

both river and sea-ports were flourishing at Tortosa during Iberian times and still functioned after Roman conquest. Since the XVIth century, irrigation, deforestation, and bank protection against floods have accelerated the progradation of the shore. Other studies report on the submerged occurrence of monumental structures, often belonging to port engineering works.

Many readers will find interesting tidbits relating to early attempts to control coastal processes. One paper reports on the largely successful efforts of emperors Claudius (41-54) and Trajan (98-117) to build artificial ports in the Tiber delta. Other efforts elsewhere were not so successful.

Readers fluent in French will find this a fascinating work, packed full of historical vignettes about shoreline evolution. English-speaking readers can peruse the volume by reference to the English summaries. The book is handsomely produced in large format. For those interested in the application of archaeological data to the interpretation of shoreline history, this book will provide much useful information.

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An Introduction to Coastal Zone Economics: Concepts, Methods and Case Studies, by Steven F. Edwards, 1988. Taylor and Francis, New York. £13.50. 134pp. ISBN 0-8448-1530-6.

This slim volume is designed to explain economics to the uninitiated. It purports to define the concepts and methods of economics with sufficient simplicity to allow non-economists to not only grasp, but apply the materials presented. In a word: it fails. Not only does it not simplify the subject, it confounds the reader by presenting too much non-essential detail, skipping parts of essential calculations, and generally presenting the material in a condescending fashion using trite statements and truncated, fabricated cases. As well, the limitations of economics are touched only lightly and then ignored.

Too much detail is seen in a continuous stream of definitions that appear unnecessary and confusing to readers wishing only a "cook-book" to approximate the value of a resource.