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Global Environments through the Quaternary – exploring environmental change, by David E. Anderson, Andrew S. Goudie & Adrian G. Parker, 2007. Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, United Kingdom. Softbound, xiii + 359 pages. Price GBP 25.99; USD 52.00. ISBN 978-0-19-874226-5.



This book is a reformulation and expansion of Andrew Goudie's 1992 third edition of "Environmental Change," which was widely used as a text in undergraduate courses. There are now three authors and two welcome new chapters: (1) Links between environmental change and human evolution and society, and (2) Pleistocene climate change and environments in mid- to high latitudes. Also new are 16 pages of color plates, although only two are from North America. Contributing to easier comprehension are the larger pages with a two-column format; most figures are rendered in attractive shades of blue and gray. Selected readings are recommended at the end of each chapter. A glossary has been added. References cited are also online and there is a lecturer's guide for sale.

Particularly well done is the chapter on sea-level change and accounts of dune and dust sedimentation history and Antarctic ice cores. The main deficiency is the slight treatment of the Americas, but Quaternary environmental change in this part of the world can be emphasized in lectures. Omitted from the text are discussions of glacial surges, subglacial fluvial sedimentation and landforms such as tunnel valleys and non-glacial varve sedimentation. Despite these omissions I recommend this attractively priced textbook.

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