

Carbonate Depositional Environments, Modern and Ancient, Part 2: Carbonate Platforms*

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Title

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CARBONATE DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS Modern and Ancient

PART 2: CARBONATE PLATFORMS

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PREFACE

The following text briefly examines the settings, depositional environments, and evolution of platform carbonates. We feel the summary should prove interesting to academia and petroleum geologists alike, because reference is made to numerous ancient examples from diverse basins.

The first section by C.H. Moore clarifies the principal differences between siliciclastic and carbonate deposition. After discussing the main sites and nature of carbonate accumulations, major changes in the evolution of carbonate platforms during geologic time are summarized. The second section by J.L. Wilson details the interaction between tectonic setting and develop-

ment of platform carbonates. A potpourri of examples drawn from the author's extensive studies illustrates carbonate patterns of deposition in a variety of large-scale settings. In the final section, P.M. Harris discusses reefs, sand shoals, lagoons, and tidal flats—the main platform carbonate facies that have over the years been attractive sediments to investigate, and maybe more importantly, have proven to be reservoirs for significant commercial hydrocarbons.

P.M. HARRIS
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