

BOOK REVIEW

Review of *Geological history of Greenland—four billion years of Earth evolution*, by Niels Henriksen (2008). Copenhagen: Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. 270 pp. ISBN 978-87-7871-211-0.

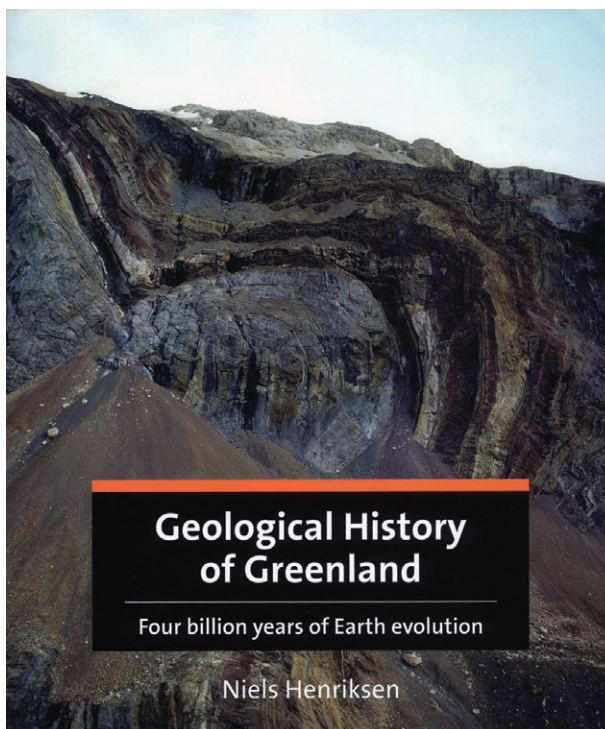
A translation of the Danish book *Grønlands geologiske udvikling*, published in 2005, *Geological history of Greenland* summarizes the results of more than 60 years of geological mapping and investigations in Greenland by the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. This is a beautifully illustrated, large-format volume. The 270 pages provide a stunning visual presentation, with as many as 850 colour illustrations, photographs and maps accompanied by comprehensive captions. Even if the reader has only a very limited knowledge or interest in geology, the many high-quality scenic pictures of Greenlandic landscapes are impressive. Sixty fact boxes explain basic geological concepts and processes. A full glossary of geological terms, as well as suggestions for further reading, is also provided.

The book takes the reader on a journey through geological time, from early Precambrian times to the present day. The mountains and fjords of Greenland preserve a record of nearly four billion years of Earth history: the story includes mountain-building and continental drift, primitive life, the formation of sedimentary basins, volcanic eruptions and ice ages. The diversity of Greenland's geology means that most major processes are covered in the book. The text opens with a concise overview of the geological timescale and evolution of the present-day landscape. Subsequent chapters describe the crystalline basement, the Gardar Province, the Proterozoic to Ordovician sedimentary basins, the development of the Caledonian and Ellesmerian fold belts, Upper Palaeozoic to Palaeogene sedimentary basins and Palaeogene volcanism. Finally, the commercial mineral resources and hydrocarbon potential of Greenland and the surrounding shelf areas are presented.

In summary, it is a magnificent book presenting magnificent landscapes and magnificent geology! The book is to be highly recommended to anyone with an interest in

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geology or natural sciences. It is an outstanding contribution to the Earth sciences literature, and it is one of the best geology books available for a broader (but educated) public. It is also sufficiently detailed to be of interest to the more advanced research worker.

The author of the book, Niels Henriksen, is the former head of the Department of Geological Mapping at the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. Henriksen, known as Oscar among friends and colleagues, has led scientific expeditions to Greenland for more than 30 years, and has a thorough knowledge of Greenland's geology and nature. Through his long professional life, Henriksen has compiled a number of geological and overview maps, and has published numerous scientific articles. His contribution has been rewarded internationally with the Major John Sacheverell A'Deane Coke Medal in 1987 (by the Geological Society of London) and the Danish Geology Prize in 2000 (by the Geological Society of Denmark).