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Lithofacies and Bioherms of Upper Paleozoic in Yunnan-Guizhou-Guangxi Provinces, China

Preliminary lithofacies studies of upper Paleozoic rocks in Yunnan, Guizhou, and Guangxi Provinces indicate three stages of crustal change, beginning in the Devonian.

1. In the slow-transgression stage, up to 5,000 m of Devonian sediment was deposited on the fault blocks resulting from Caledonian deformation. In the East Yunnan–central Guizhou area and in the foreland of the elevated Jiangnan, these fault blocks formed narrow, rapidly subsiding zones or troughs. Bioherms, commonly developed along the boundaries between elevated and depressed blocks, account for the lateral distribution of the source and reservoir rocks.

2. In the extensive-transgression stage, open-marine continental-shelf sediments predominate. No rocks of marginal facies have been reported. On some elevated areas, bioherms are present. During the Dongwu movement between the Early and Late Permian, basalts were extruded along the Xiaojiang fault and the whole area was gradually uplifted, ending the transgression.

3. In the slow-regression stage, sedimentation was progressively restricted to the topographic lows in the eastern part of the area. The platform margin is very narrow and bioherms are well developed. Analysis of widespread oil and gas shows suggests that exploratory efforts should be directed first to this area.

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Tectonic Features of Oil and Gas Basins of Eastern China

Petroleum exploration in eastern China in recent years indicates compressive folding as the main tectonic feature during the Mesozoic. In the Cenozoic, tensile block-faulting formed a new stage of development. This "compression followed by tension" stress field created two different sedimentary, tectonic, and oil-occurrence cycles, two different kinds of oil and gas basins, and two different modes of oil and gas accumulation.

In the "depression-type" sedimentary basins of the Mesozoic, oil and gas accumulations are mainly controlled by anticlinal structures of the second order. In contrast, in the "fault-depression-type" Cenozoic sedimentary basins, oil and gas occur in traps formed by block faulting.

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