

CONTENTS

Preface	VII
CHAPTER 1. ELEMENTS OF CLIMATE AND PALEOCLIMATE	1
The seasons and their paleoclimatological analogues	1
Atmospheric pressure, gradients and flow	2
The general circulation	3
Local and regional effects in circulation	7
Solar radiation and poleward heat transport	9
Solar radiation	9
The radiation balance	9
Poleward heat flux	11
Temperature patterns	12
Local effects	14
Heat flux, a significant variable	15
Precipitation and humidity	15
Localization of precipitation and evaporation	16
Deserts — on land and sea	18
The roles of the ocean	19
Heat transfer in the oceans	20
Summary — climatic elements	23
Climatic elements in paleoclimates	23
Uniformitarian difficulties	24
Limited availability and usefulness of data	24
Dating	25
Paleogeographic reconstructions	26
CHAPTER 2. PRIMITIVE AND EARLY CLIMATES	29
Evolution of primitive atmospheres and oceans	29
Climates before 3800 million years ago	30
Climates between 3800 and 2400 million years ago	33
The earliest glaciations	37
North America	39
The carbonate-mixtite association	41
South Africa	42
Australia and India	43
Extent and timing of the earliest glaciations	43
Possible causes	45
Climates between 2300 and 950 million years ago	49
Sedimentary rock types	49
Other approaches	52
Paleomagnetic latitudes	53

CHAPTER 3. THE LATE PRECAMBRIAN GLACIATIONS	57
Introduction	57
Distribution of glacial rocks	58
Australia	58
Africa	62
Europe	68
Greenland and Spitsbergen	73
North America	74
Other regions	78
Problems of late Precambrian climates	79
Recognition criteria for glaciation	80
The extent of late Precambrian glaciations	85
Age and paleolatitude	89
The problem of genesis	93
CHAPTER 4. NON-GLACIAL PALEOZOIC	97
Introduction	97
Distributional significance of diagnostic rock types	98
Evaporites	98
Coal	101
Reef limestones	101
Bauxite	102
Phosphorite	103
Climatic history during the Paleozoic	103
Cambrian and Ordovician	103
Silurian and Devonian	107
Carboniferous	110
Permian	113
Summary of Paleozoic climates	116
CHAPTER 5. GLACIATIONS OF THE PALEOZOIC	119
Introduction	119
Cambrian glaciation	119
Ordovician-Silurian glaciations	120
The North African ice sheet	120
Glacial effects elsewhere	123
A case study of polar glaciation	125
Devonian glaciations	128
Late Paleozoic glaciations	129
Glaciation in Australia	129
Glaciation in South America	135
Glaciation in Africa	140
Glaciation in Antarctica	144
Glaciation in Asia	146
Glaciation in the Arabian peninsula	150
Polar positioning as a cause of Paleozoic glaciation	150
CHAPTER 6. THE MESOZOIC — WARMTH AND ARIDITY	155
Introduction	155
The Triassic Period	156

Rock evidence	156
Paleontological evidence	158
Summary	159
The Jurassic Period	160
Rock evidence	160
Paleoclimate indicators from paleontology	164
Paleotemperatures by the oxygen isotope method	166
Summary	168
The Cretaceous Period	168
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ chronology of climate change	169
Evidence from paleobiogeography	173
Distribution of significant rock types	175
Summary	178
Problems of Mesozoic climates	178
Was there an increase in solar radiation?	179
Mesozoic oceanic circulation	181
Carbonate compensation and the end of the Mesozoic	183
Conclusions	185
 CHAPTER 7. THE PALEOGENE DETERIORATION	 189
Introduction	189
Climates of Paleogene oceans	190
Temperatures from isotopes	190
Climatic inferences from oceanic sediments	195
Sedimentation rates and unconformities in the oceans	198
Significance of Paleogene oceanic faunas	201
Continental climates	202
Climates from fossil landplants	202
Marine environments on the continents	205
Sedimentary indicators	206
Sea level — variations, causes and effects	208
Phanerozoic variation	208
Causes and effects	211
A scenario of climatic deterioration	212
Late Cretaceous	213
Paleocene-Eocene	213
Oligocene	214
 CHAPTER 8. THE NEOGENE — WIDE SWINGS AND CYCLICITY	 217
Introduction	217
Chronology of paleotemperatures from oxygen isotopes	217
Miocene trends	218
Pliocene trends	220
Latest Neogene trends	222
Evidence of Miocene climates	223
Growth of the Antarctic ice sheet	223
Glaciation in Alaska	225
Other evidence for Miocene climates	226
Events in the late Miocene to early Pliocene	227
The early Pliocene record	230
The initiation of Arctic glaciation (late Pliocene)	231

Late Pliocene fluctuations	232
Ice-rafting	233
Antarctic and sub-Antarctic climatic indicators	234
The end of the Pliocene	236
Pleistocene chronology and correlations	236
Regional variations in the Pleistocene	239
North America	240
Europe	242
Other continental areas	245
Antarctic and sub-Antarctic	246
Other oceanic areas	247
Deglaciation and the Holocene	249
Variations in sea level	253
Milankovitch, models and maps	254
Summary	258
 CHAPTER 9. EVOLUTION AND GENESIS OF GLOBAL CLIMATES	 259
A history of global temperature variations	259
Method	259
Trends in the global thermal state	260
Controls on global climate through geological time	263
Causes of Paleozoic glaciations	263
Terminations of Paleozoic glaciations	264
Other glacial episodes	265
Conclusions	267
 References	 269
References Index	295
Subject Index	301