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BOOK REVIEW

PROGRESS IN URBAN GEOMORPHOLOGY

——Review of Urban Geomorphology ①

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The researches of urban geomorphology have been developed vigorously since the middle of the 1980s in China and become one of the most active fields among geomorphological researches. A considerable progress in theory and application aspects has been gained. For example, the academic property and characteristics of this discipline are definite, the object, contents, ways and means of study are explored and studies of urban geomorphology are carried out in many cities. It is necessary to build up an integrated theory system of this discipline with the deepening and widening of study in the field. *Urban geomorphology*, writtem by Prof. DIAO Cheng-tai and published in June 1999 by the Southwest China Normal University Press, is a new book which riviews advances of urban geomorphology in China in last 15 years, and makes a systematic exposition of the theory system, study methods and applied practice of this branch. The contents and structure of this book embods characters, development and trend of this new branch of science in China.

This book includes 9 chapters. Chapter 1 introduces theoretical achievements gained through a long-term research in the field. Regarding landforms condition as a type of resource and environment which is essential to urban development, the author makes analyses and evoluation of significant value of urban geomorphological environment(UGE), and brings forth new ideas and viewpoints, such as resource significance of landforms, economic significance of landforms, and fragiligy and catastrophability of UGE. These transformations and creations of research thinking contribute to a better understanding on the essence of landforms as a type of resource and environment.

In Chapter 2 human geomorphological agent(HGA) is discussed systematically. On the basis of the exposition of human geomorphological actions and the understanding of processes by HGA, the characters, intensity and effecting factors of HGA are analysed. Taking constructional activities as an example, the author studies the nature and characters of human geomorphological actions, and discusses their disturbing processes and effects to landforms, then approaches into a way to evaluate HGA quantitatively and locationally. The anthor considers one of the academic characters of urban geomorphology is to fully understand effects of human activities in the evolutional process of UGE.

Chapter 3 is a study on UGE. Prof. DIAO analyses first vorious processes, including natural processes and processes disturbed by human acitivites, and dynamic evolvement of UGE, dissectes component parts and regional differences of UGE, and then appraises specific properties of UGE, such as fragiligy and catastrophabiligy. These are not only basic work but also up-to-date achievements of urban geomorphology in China.

The next six chapters deal with the application and practice of urban geomorphology. The progresses in this field at home and abroad are systematically introduced and evaluated. Some achivements made in the antuor's long research are chosen and enumerated as examples in order to furnish case studies for further development of similar research.

In summary, this is a recommendable book which comprehensively sums up progress of urban geomorphology in respects of theory, application and method in China. There can be no doubt that the author has succeeded in his aims: this is certainly a good overview of an important and rapidly expending area between urban science and geomorphology, and certainly helps readers to catch up with current views on urbn geomorphology.

The contents this book are as follows:

① DIAO Cheng-tai, 1999. Urban Geomorphology. Chongqing: Southwest China Normal University Press. 391pp. ISBN: 7-5621-2159-1.