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Aleksei Petrovich Pavlov (1854–1929) – the propagator of Sueß' ideas in Russia

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Alexei P. Pavlov was a prominent Russian geologist, stratigraphist and paleontologist. He was a professor at Moscow University and an academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences. His life was devoted to the Moscow University where he was working for nearly fifty years. He began as the curator of the Geological museum at Moscow University and evolved into an honorary professor. Pavlov successfully combined scientific and educational activities. His lectures had always included the latest scientific news and attracted students from the entire University. Being a brilliant scientist and teacher he was the founder of the Moscow Geological School. Among his followers are A.D. Arkhangelsky, N.S. Shatsky and V.V. Menner. A.P. Pavlov is the author of more than 160 publications about Russian paleontology and Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous stratigraphy. In addition, he wrote articles on Quaternary geology, history of geology and pedagogic. He emphasized the importance of teaching natural sciences in schools and colleges and taught its principles.

Most of Pavlov's publications focus on stratigraphy and paleontology, although he studied tectonics as well. Moreover, he coined the term "syncline" and was very much interested in the structure of orogenic belts as well as in the origin of orogenesis. As Pavlov widely supported Sueß' ideas and opinions, he often cited him in Russian scientific literature. Through lectures, public talks and popular as well as historical publications Pavlov made Sueß's concepts and assumptions popular all over Russia. In "An Essay on the History of Geology" (1901) he examined in detail the origin and development of the geological sciences starting from 1875.

Sueß' article "The Formation of the Alps" was issued right in this year and he believed that this work had opened a new geological era.

In 1911 A.P. Pavlov gave a speech on "Geologic science and main stages of its development (evolution)", in which he emphasized the significance of E. Sueß' "The Face of the Earth".

Pavlov's work "Recent geology" which deals with the origin of different geological branches was published in 1914. Three chapters are about the formation of sedimentary, magmatic and metamorphic rocks, whereas other sections of the book focus on the structure of the earth, geological time or geological research in Russia. Sueß's publications "The Formation of the Alps" and "The Face of the Earth" are touched in the chapter "The structure of the Earth and features of its present appearance". This chapter is illustrated by Ed. Sueß' "Schematic division of the earth's surface" and Pavlov describes units of the Earth crust and tectonics of orogenic belts on the basis of Sueß' assumptions.

Pavlov wrote that "The Face of the Earth" made history as a tremendously important work which contained all the geological knowledge that had accumulated over the years.

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