

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

by

Prof. Mario PANIZZA

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi Modena,
Largo S. Eufemia, 19, 41100 Modena, Italy

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(former internal) originating in the substance of which the Earth is made and produce changes in the lithosphere. They are diastrophic phenomena giving rise to local deformation, volcanic activity and the slow transfer of the inner heat of the Earth to the surface. Exogenetic (external) forces originate in the solar-system and modify the surface of the lithosphere. They are principally the force of gravity and that of energy, which determine vectorial movements, convection and tangential movements of portions of solid, liquid or gaseous masses on the above-mentioned substances.

This scheme of subdivision leads to the distinction between landforms and processes caused by *internal geodynamics*, termed *endogenous*, and those, landforms and processes that are related to *external geodynamics*, termed *exogenous*. The morphology of the Earth is a result of the interaction of both factors. As far as the dominance of one or the other in terms of space and/or time, Subdivisions and in some cases volcanic or tectonic phenomena may give the most significant features to the landscape, prevailing over the external processes of erosion or deposition. At other times, and in other places, the external processes of landscape formation may hide or mask the effects of endogenous origin. For example, in volcanic areas, like Mount Etna or Mt. Pelée, or in tectonically active areas, like California or in the Alpine-Mediterranean regions, the internal geodynamic components are evident in the morphological configuration of landscape reliefs. On the other hand, erosion and deposition, such as the badlands in Dakota, or a landslide in the Alps, or on the coast of Sicily, although more clearly reveal the external features related to the action of the force of gravity in the formation of that particular landscape.