

Abstract and Poster T23D-2449

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# IS THERE NORTH AMIE



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*REALLY A*

**RICAN PLATE**

?

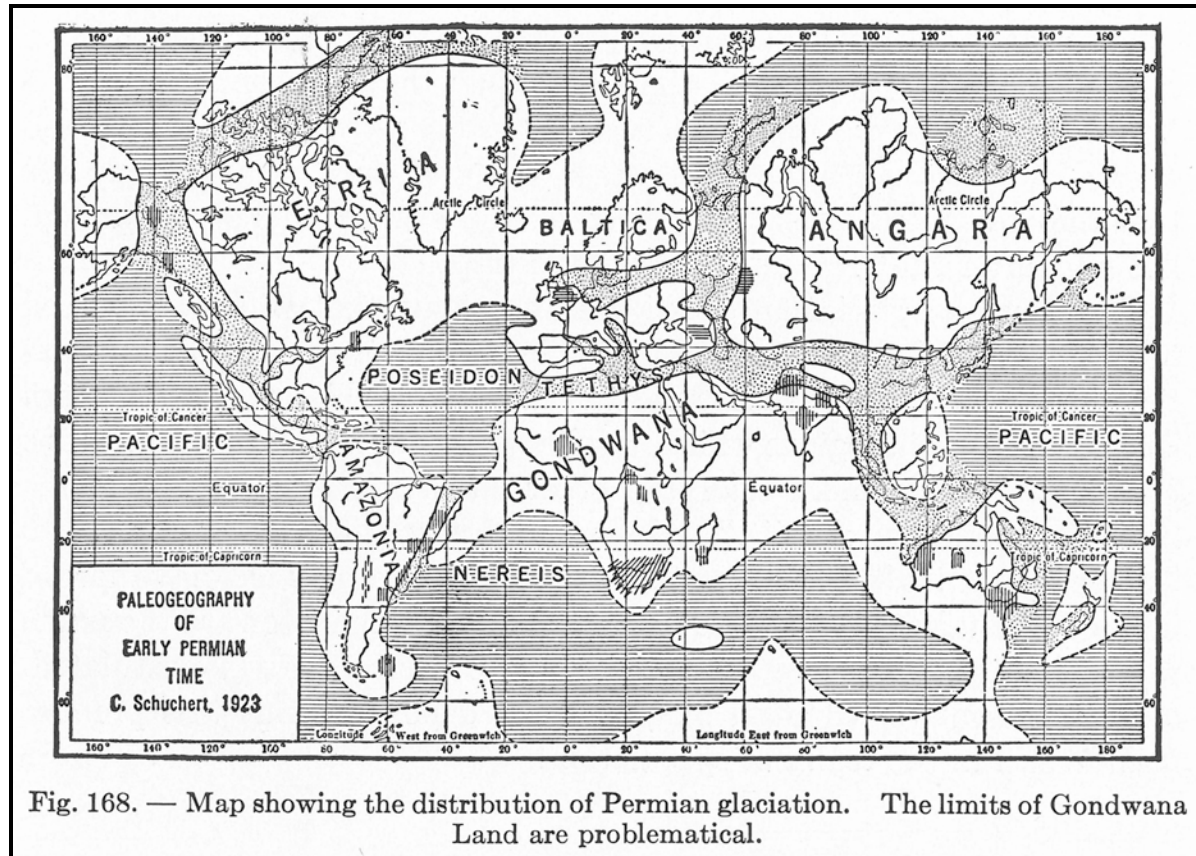
**American geologists finally yielded to Alfred Wegener's continental drift in the 1960s.**

North America lost its status as the "type continent"  
It was just another drifted fragment of Pangæa.

**But North American geologists  
still managed to get their own plate.**

Geologists do not question this misinterpretation,  
just as earlier geologists did not question fixism.

# Students learned fixism as doctrine in the leading textbook from 1915-1968.



Schuchert (1924, 1933) *Historical Geology*

Charles Schuchert would never disown the elements of his paleogeography. His coauthors at Yale continued that policy until 1969.

# Leading textbook authors have opinions that can easily become scientific doctrine.

**J.D.Dana** (*Manual of Geology* 1863, 1874, ...1895) taught that continents (and humans) were divinely created entities. America was the type continent, continuously developing since Azoic time.

**Schuchert** (*Text-book of Geology* 1915, 1924, 1933, ...1960) taught fixist-paleogeography, with his cherished continents *Eria* and *Gondwana*, and oceans *Poseidon* and *Nereis*. Schuchert, Longwell, and Dunbar warned students to avoid drift ideas, even after they knew that drift-paleogeography was more correct.

**Press & Siever** (*Earth* 1974) showed a map with a "North American Plate" separated by an "uncertain plate boundary".

# Early plate-tectonic maps showed a single American Plate

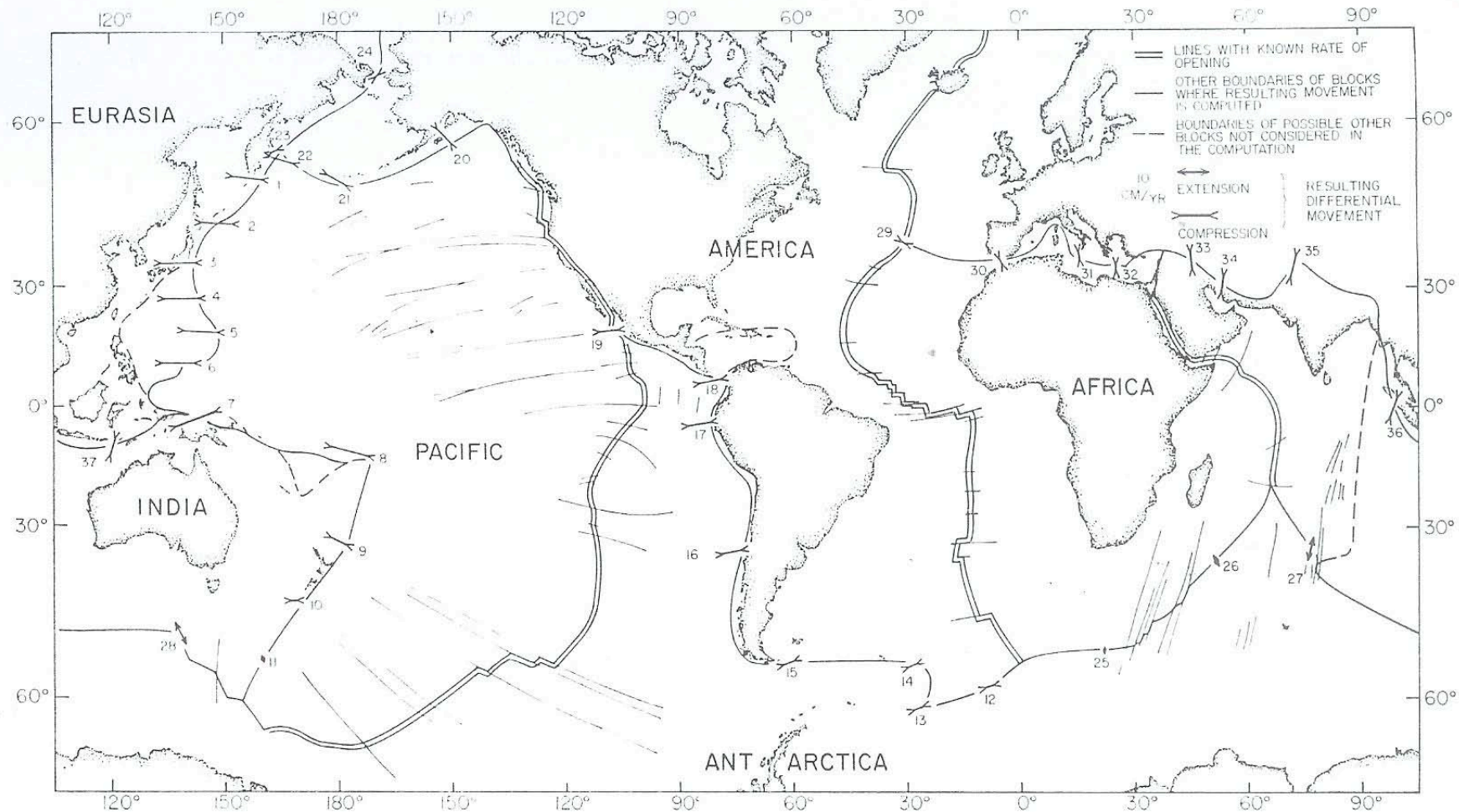
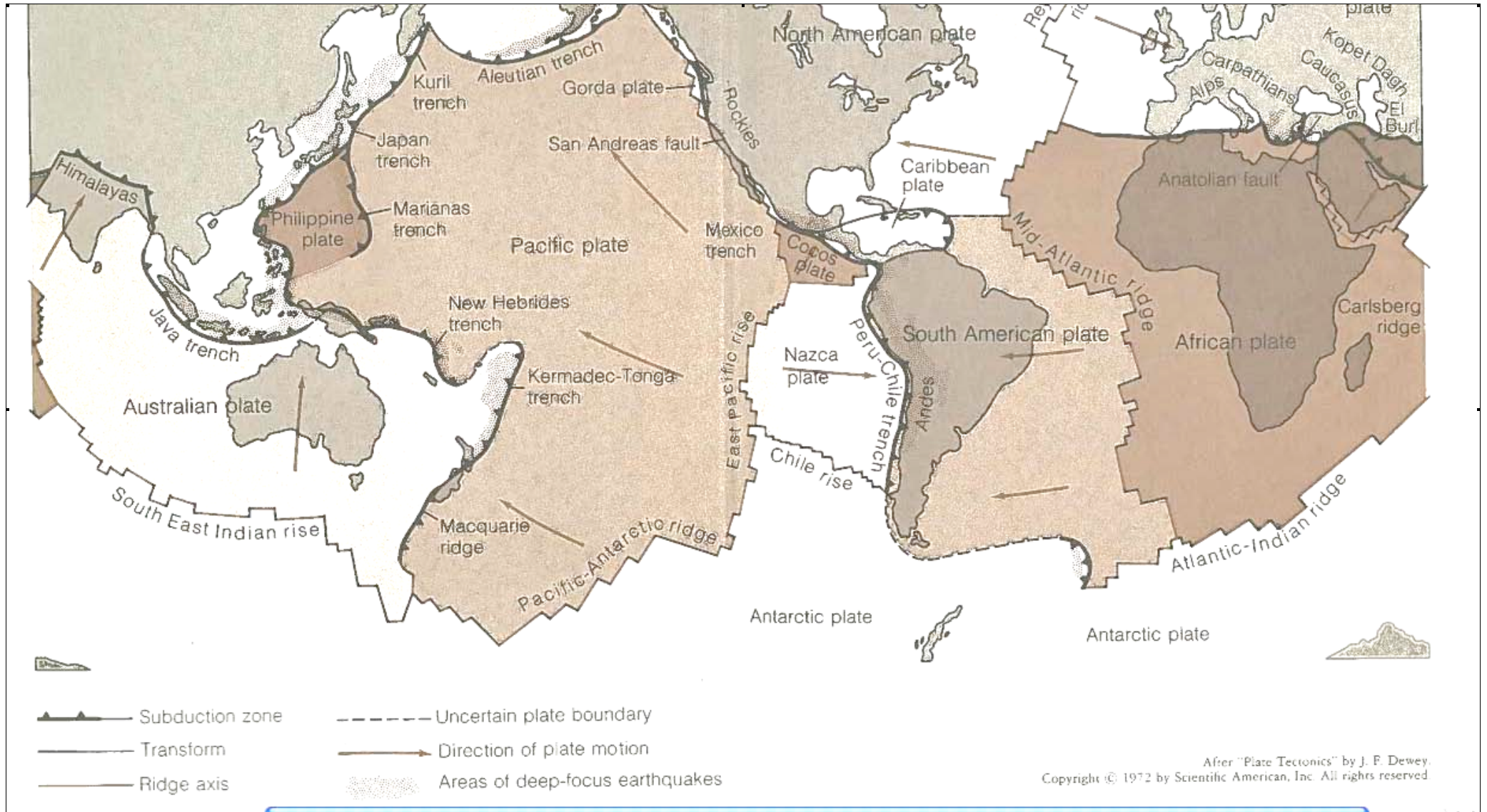


Fig. 6. The locations of the boundaries of the six blocks used in the computations. The numbers next to the vectors of differential movement refer to Table 5. Note that the boundaries where the rate of shortening or slippage exceeds about 2 cm/yr account for most of the world earthquake activity.

Le Pichon (1968).

# The leading textbook in 1974 indicated a North American Plate on the inside front cover



Press & Siever (1974) *Earth*

# How modern textbooks divide what I call the Two-American Plate

## Two plates divided by transform boundary:

Marshak

Montgomery

Plummer, Carlson, & McGearry

Skinner & Porter

## Two plates divided by unspecified boundary:

Chernicoff & Fox (plate labels, no line shown)

Davidson, Read, & Davis (unlabeled line)

Dolgoff (color change, no line shown)

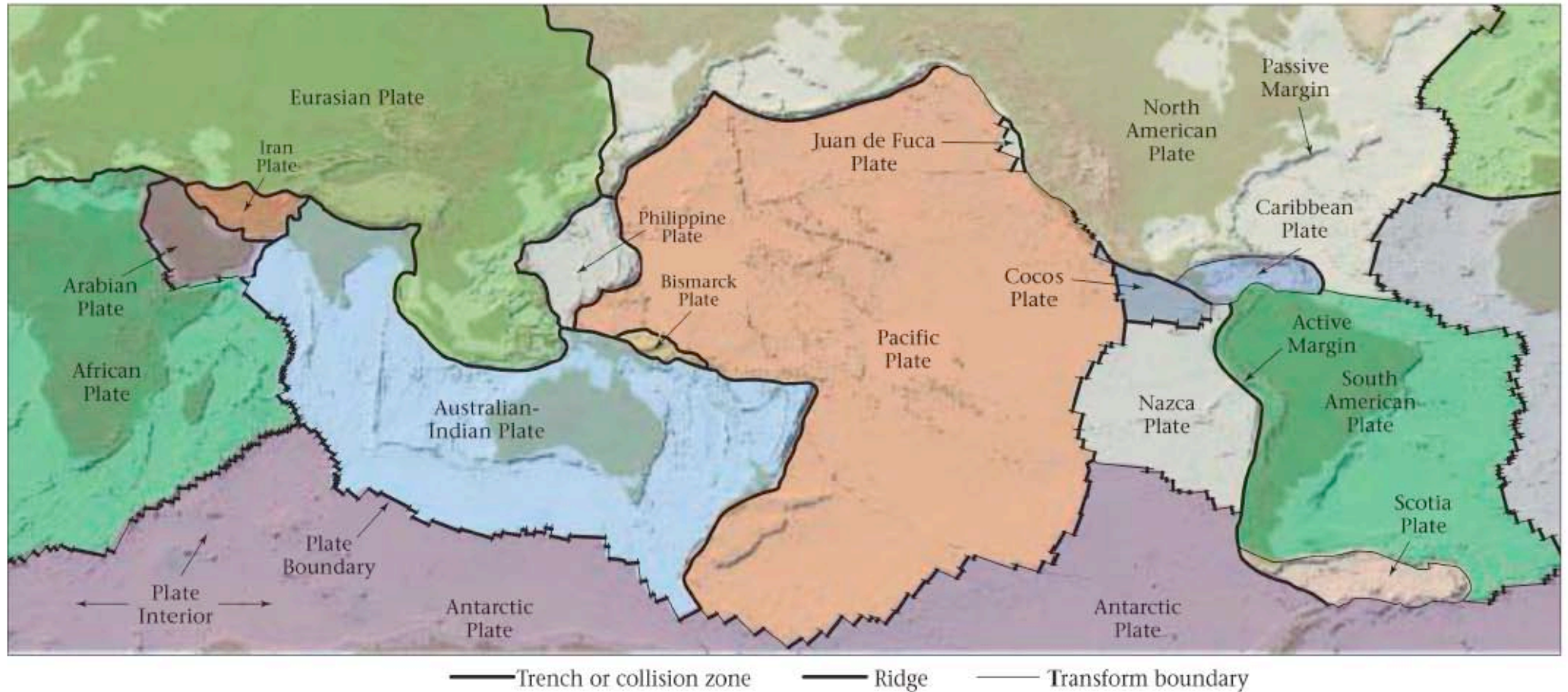
Grotzinger, Jordan, Press, & Siever (unlabeled line)

Monroe & Wicander (line labeled "uncertain plate boundary")

Tarbuck & Lutgens (color change, no line shown)

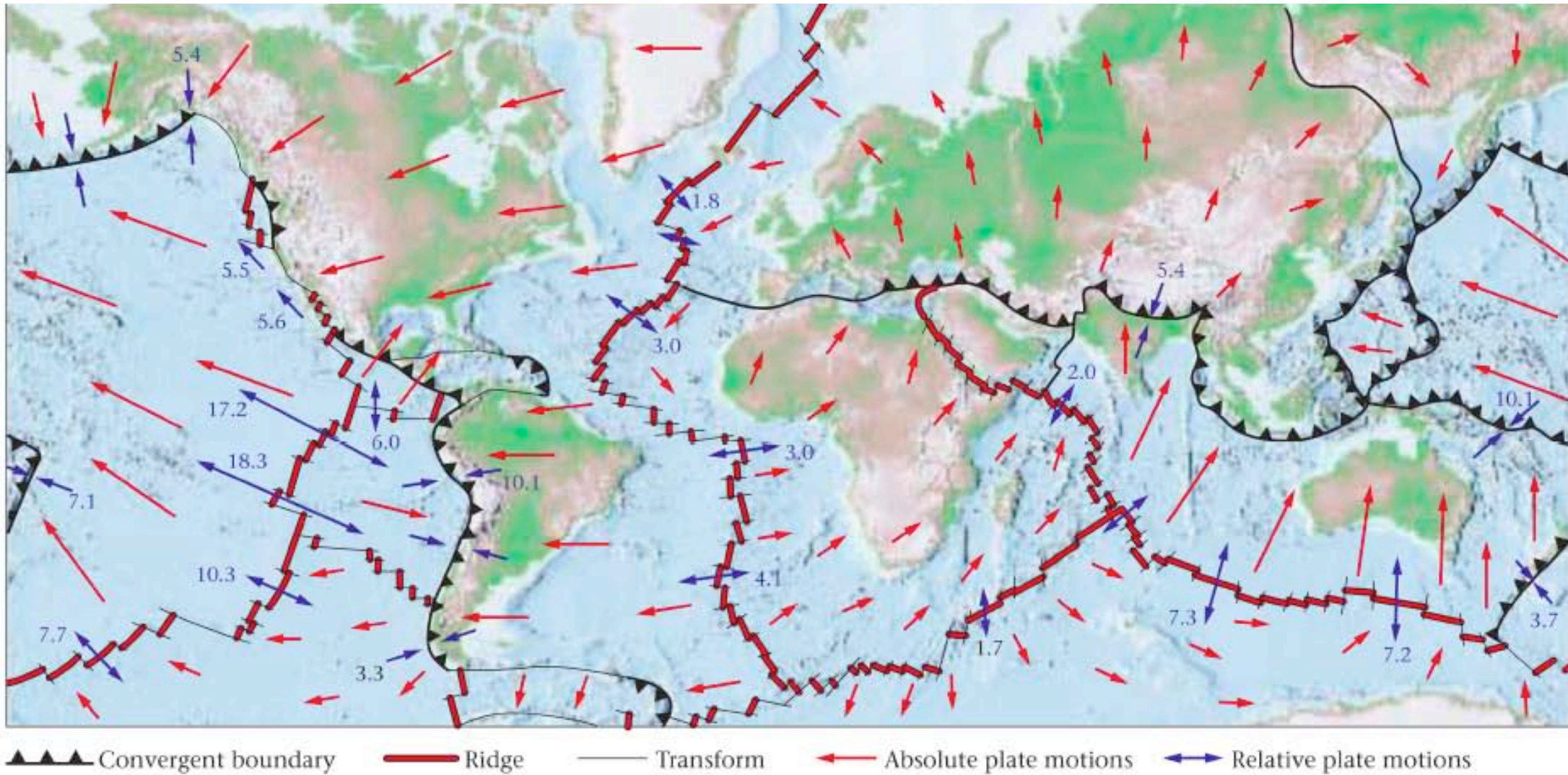


# Modern textbooks invent a "transform boundary" to divide what I call the Two-American Plate



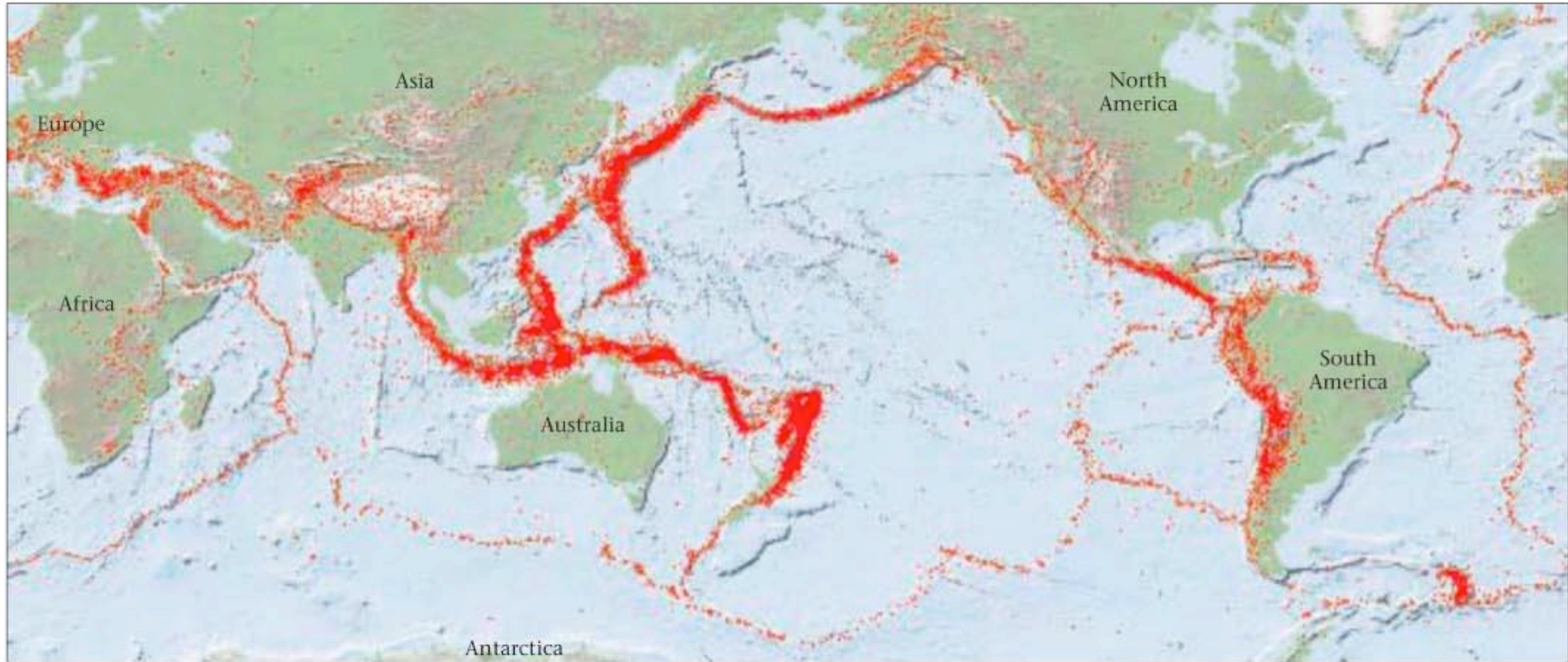
Marshak (2008) *Earth: Portrait of a Planet*

# Modern textbooks show no velocity contrasts within what I call the Two-American Plate



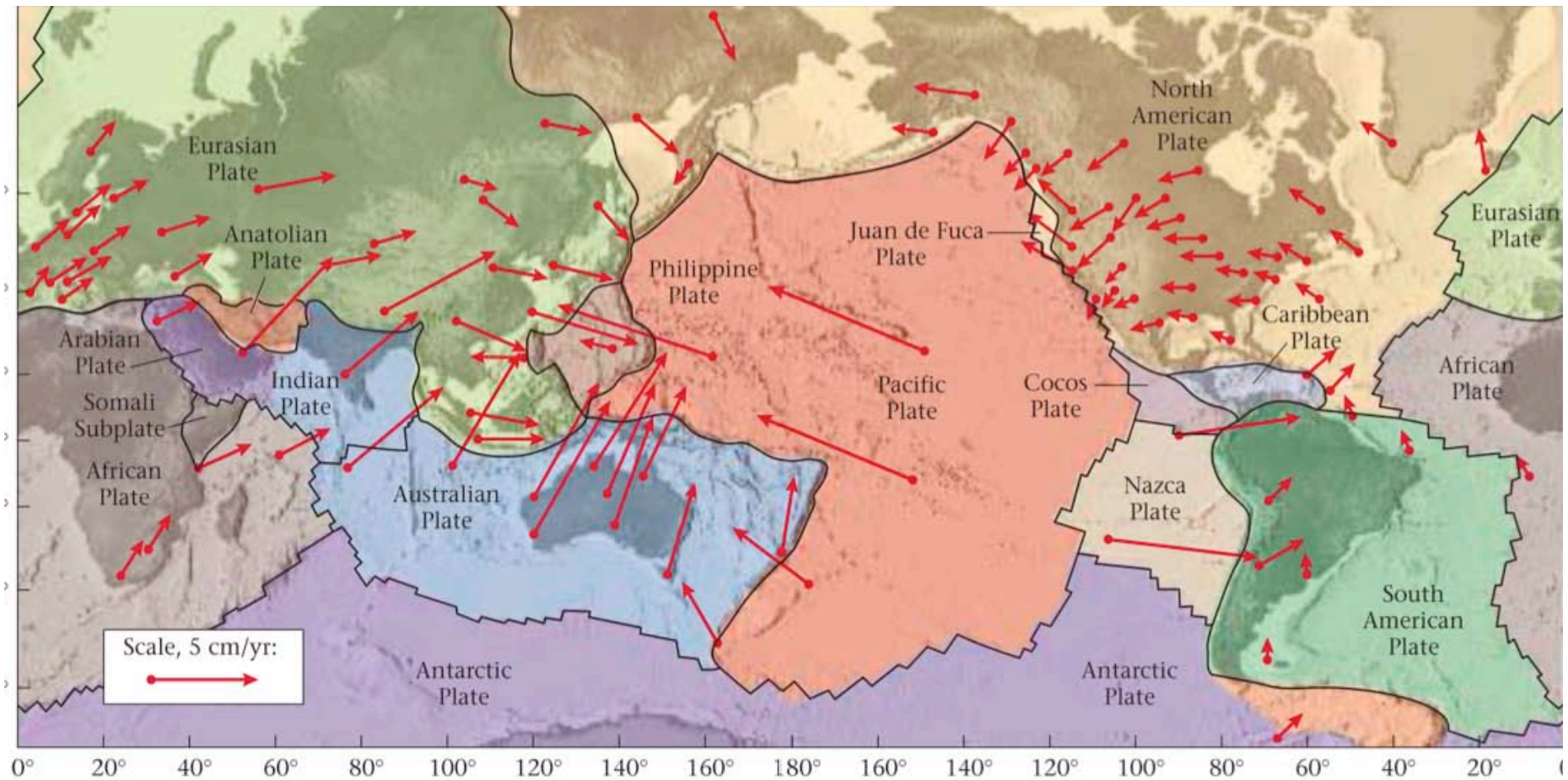
Marshak (2008) *Earth: Portrait of a Planet*

Modern textbooks show no earthquake epicenters  
dividing what I call the Two-American Plate



Marshak (2008) *Earth: Portrait of a Planet*

# Modern textbooks show no GPS contrasts dividing what I call the Two-American Plate



Marshak (2008) *Earth: Portrait of a Planet*

# How textbook authors manipulate

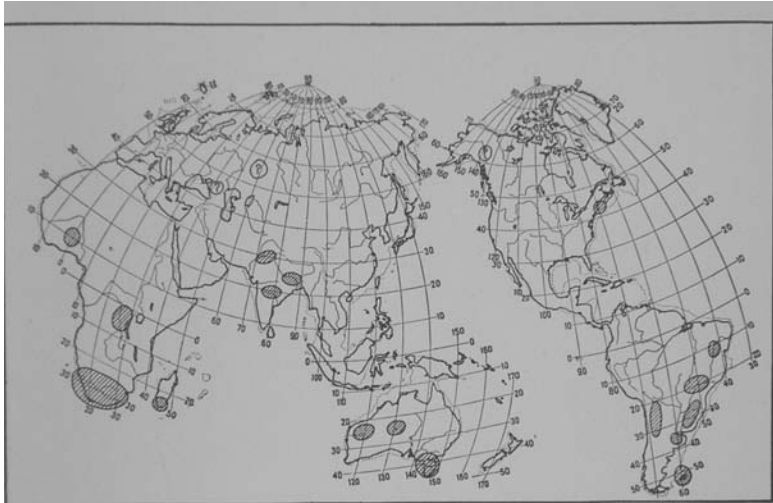


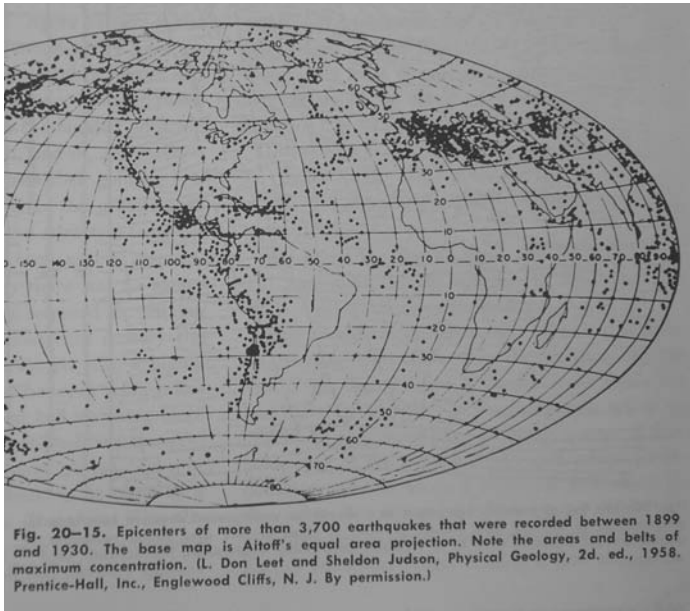
Fig. 187. Distribution of Permian glaciation. Base map used by courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History.

Schuchert & Dunbar (1942) wanted to avoid having to illustrate their untenable Permian land bridges across the Atlantic, so they replaced their Mercator map with this one, which had no Atlantic Ocean.



Dunbar (1949) wanted to hide Schuchert's incorrect Atlantic coast in pre-Cretaceous times, so he had an artist paint clouds on that coast, with clouds added to other coasts as a diversion. Clouds were used on 33 maps. They were removed in the next edition.

# maps to hide global tectonic problems



Longwell (1962) wanted to hide the increasingly striking and precise pattern of mid-Atlantic ridge seismicity, so he replaced his clear 1955-map with this one, showing poorly located earthquake epicenters that were all recorded before 1930.



Marshak (2008) wanted a plate boundary where none really existed, so he drew an inactive fracture zone from the mid-Atlantic ridge and labeled it a "transform boundary." A textbook without a North American Plate would be less popular in America.

Before the 1960s, geology students learned that continents were fixed.

Today, geology students learn that there is a North American Plate.

**What else do we learn that should be questioned?**

**Historical research exposing the  
scientific conspiracy against continental drift**  
is now available as an ebook at

*FIXISTS.com*

and in the most recent issue of the journal  
*EARTH SCIENCES HISTORY*