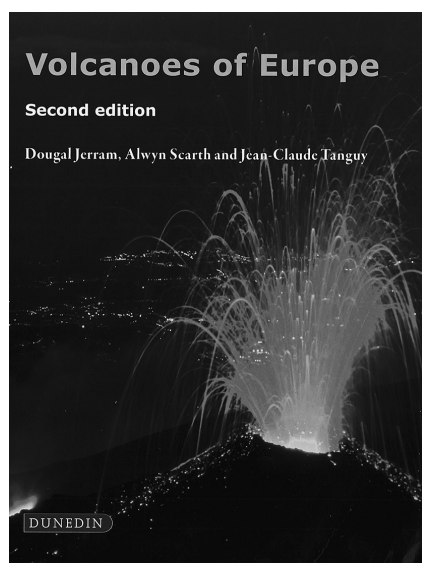


Volcanoes of Europe (Second edition), by D. Jerram, A. Scarth & J.C. Tanguy, 2014. Dunedin Academic Press, Edinburgh/London. 278 pages. Hardback: price £59.93 (\$72.60), hardback ISBN 9781780460543; paperback: price £ 24.71 (\$45.0), paperback ISBN 9781780460420, ePub: price £ 24.99, ePub ISBN 9781780465630



Volcanoes are those natural objects which have fascinated mankind since time immemorial. ‘Volcanoes of Europe’ is an interesting tome that provides a great deal of information about mostly active volcanoes across Europe and that aims at a wide circle of readers. It is useful to scientists who work on volcanic rocks and to undergraduate and post-graduate students, but also to laymen who have no direct connection to geology in daily life.

Following a general introduction, the book is divided into eight chapters devoted to Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Iceland, Norway, France and Germany, respectively. Each chapter is subdivided into a minimum of two sections that are listed in the contents, but, in addition, there are further divisions for text clarifications within the text itself. Almost all chapters have special yellow boxes in which interesting facts related to places described are highlighted. Most of the chapters contain also blue boxes captioned “Meet the scientist”, presenting scholars who worked at the places discussed. The volume contains a great number of different types of graphics (photographs, maps, satellite

images and other figures), which notably enriches the main content of the text. At the end of the book there are 10 pages of references, three appendices (glossary, 4 pp.; vocabulary, 2 pp.; eruptions in Europe in historical times, 7 pp.) as well as an 11-page index. The last-named lists key words appearing in text and illustrations; in-depth treatment of subjects is indicated in bold, which facilitates targeting specific information.

The first chapter (Introduction) is written in a clear way and presents the main data and terms related to volcanic eruptions (e.g., types and scales of eruptions) and volcanic rocks (e.g., classification of types of rock, morphological structures). At the end of the chapter places in Europe with occurrences of volcanoes (or of young volcanic rocks) and geological processes related to their formation are briefly described. The chapter is rather short (14 pp.), yet is loaded with compressed information. For specialists this chapter probably does not contain much that is new, and people not directly involved in geology could find it a little bit of an overload, yet students with some geological background should find it helpful.

The second chapter (the longest one, 57 pp.) is devoted to Italy, heading off with a detailed account of the Campania area, with special emphasis on a complete history of the Vesuvius, but also presents data on other volcanoes such as those near Pozzuoli or on the island of Ischia. Next, the Aeolian Islands are described in detail with special focus on the Stromboli and Vulcano. Descriptions of the Etna and Sicily Stairs complete this section.

The chapter devoted to Greece (23 pp.) describes the Santorini, Milos, Méthana, Nisyros and Kós, all in the Aegean Sea. The most detailed account is of Santorini Island, with a very interesting discussion about how the eruption about 3,600 years ago could have affected Minoan Culture. The next chapters (on Spain, 39 pp.; on Portugal, 33 pp.) focus on the Canary Islands and the Azores, respectively. In both cases, all volcanoes on all islands are described.

The chapter devoted to Iceland (38 pp.) is one of the best. It contains a full description of how Iceland was formed and its special geological placement, data on the main volcanic centres (e.g., Krafla, Hekla and Katla) and descriptions of volcanic eruptions which greatly impacted European citizens such as Skaftár Fires and Eyjafjallajökull. It also provides information on tourist attractions such as volcanic caves, geysers and other hydrothermal features. There is also a separate section devoted to volcanoes located in the Atlantic Ocean (Surtsey, Heimaey) and their influence on volcanology.

The last few chapters provide outlines of areas that are not often linked with volcanism such as Norway (6 pp.), France (17 pp.) and Germany (9 pp.). On the one hand, the chapter devoted to Norway is connected to the previous on Iceland, describing volcanism on the small island of Jan Mayen and the submarine Loki's Castle, while on the other it describes older volcanic rocks of the Svalbard archipelago. Description of volcanism in France is focused on the Massif Central; for German territory, the maars in the eastern and western Eifel Mountains are considered.

The last two chapters constitute the weakest part of the tome, in opening up a new topic, i.e., "Extinct volcanism in Europe", but in covering solely two

countries (e.g., the Czech Republic, Hungary), without any preview of other parts of the continent. It would also have been helpful if each of the chapters had concluded with a short section such as "Further Reading" or "Bibliography".

The strength of the book is the clear, crisp language and the plethora of data, both in text and in graphics. Each volcano is characterised according to age, geological setting, types of lava, types of volcanic eruption and the most famous eruptions in historical or recent times. The appendix "Eruptions in Europe in historical times" lists all known eruptions of all volcanoes covered in this tome, which is an excellent summary of volcanic activities in Europe. The reader can complement his or her knowledge of the most famous volcanoes, but also of lesser-known ones.

To sum up, 'Volcanoes of Europe' can be recommended to everyone who is interested in volcanic phenomena. It would certainly be good to have a comparable tome devoted to other parts of the world, written in the same style by the same authors, in the near future.

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