

## THE ORIGIN OF SUBMARINE CANYONS.

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A critical review of hypotheses, by Douglas JOHNSON (Columbia Geomorphic Studies, 3) New York: Columbia University Press (London, H. Milford) 1939. 9 1/2 × 6 inches; X + 126 pages; illustrations and maps 15 s. 6 d.

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In this publication, the author has completed and grouped a series of articles which appeared in the *Journal of Geomorphology*. He reviews some of the theories that have been advocated to explain the occurrence and form of the submarine canyons that notch the outer margins of the continental shelf. Twelve different hypotheses are examined, but with varying degrees of thoroughness. We would cite, as of especial interest, the hypotheses covering tectonic origin, sub-aerial origin and that on the action of turbidity currents. The author favours a submarine origin of canyons by a process of submarine spring sapping. (\*)



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(\*) See also, on the same subject, articles appearing in "*Hydrographic Review*" Vol. XV, N° 2, page 120 and Vol. XVI, N° 1, page 121.