

Possible origin of Saudi Arabia's Ghawar supergiant oil field

November 29 2016

Almost every literate person knows the basics of oil. Almost every literate person also knows something about plate tectonics. While coupling of these two topics has been the focus of many studies, all to date has mostly remained indirect.

In a thought-provoking and already controversial paper, authors Giovanni Muttoni and Dennis Kent suggest direct links between major oil provinces and tectonics.

The concept lies in polar wander and relatively rapid past movements of continents with respect to latitude.

At a basic level, and at certain locations, massive amounts organic carbon could have been emplaced at equatorial latitudes and subsequently capped with sediments deposited at sub-tropical latitudes.

Time will tell whether the idea is right, but the paper nonetheless forces the [scientific community](#) to think.

More information: Giovanni Muttoni et al. A Novel Plate Tectonic Scenario for the Genesis and Sealing of Some Major Mesozoic Oil Fields, *GSA Today* (2016). [DOI: 10.1130/GSATG289A.1](https://doi.org/10.1130/GSATG289A.1)

Provided by Geological Society of America

Citation: Possible origin of Saudi Arabia's Ghawar supergiant oil field (2016, November 29)
retrieved 27 April 2024 from
<https://phys.org/news/2016-11-saudi-arabia-ghawar-supergiant-oil.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.