The Italian geological expeditions to Tripolitania and Cyrenaica regions (Libya, N-Africa) between 1911 and 1914

The early geological studies of Libya were carried out by Italian (1880) who made the first geological map. Nevertheless, Italian geologists have conducted pioneering studies, and accurately described the stratigraphical architecture of the country, Taroudant and India (1880) published a monograph devoted to the geology of Libya. For the period between 1911 and 1914, carried out several investigations in Libyan territories and produced the geological map of Libya at scale of 1:600,000. At the beginning of the 20th century the political agreements of Italy with the United Arab Emirates gave rise to a colonial policy aimed to occupy the Cyrenaica and Tripolitania regions. Thus, for a better understanding of the geological and geophysical resources, the Italian government organised several scientific expeditions carried out between 1911 and 1913. The main goal of these missions was the surveying of supposed valuable and precious mineral deposits, as inferred by S. Stolz (1910).

The Storza - Sanfilippo expedition

The first preliminary expedition to Libya, led by F. Piscia and G. Sanfilippo, lasted from June to late August 1911. The mission's objective was to provide a comprehensive overview of the stratigraphical and geophysical features in the Tripolitania and Cyrenaica regions. The mission was financed by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and was led by F. Piscia and G. Sanfilippo. The results were published in 1914 and included detailed geological maps and descriptions of the region.

The Franchetti Mission

In 1913 the economic and geographical conditions in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica were studied by a group of Italian geologists led by G. Franchetti. The aim of the mission was to explore the region's mineral resources and determine its economic potential. The mission's findings were published in 1915 and contributed to the development of the region's economy.

The Zaccagni Mission

In 1914, G. Zaccagni and A. Zamboni led an expedition to Libya to study the region's geological and mineral resources. The mission's findings were published in 1915 and contributed to the development of the region's economy.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the three scientific missions in Libya, carried out by Italian geologists, emphasized their contribution to the geological knowledge of the region.