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Research paper

Main deposit styles and associated tectonics of the West Junggar region, NW China



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ABSTRACT

The West Junggar region, located in the loci of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt, is a highly endowed metallogenic province with >100 tonnes Au, >0.7 Mt Cu, >0.3 Mt Mo, and >2.3 Mt chromite as well as significant amounts of Be and U. The West Junggar region has three metallogenic belts distributed systematically from north to south: (1) late Paleozoic Saur Au-Cu belt; (2) early Paleozoic Xiemisitai-Sharburt Be-U-Cu-Zn belt; (3) late Paleozoic Barluk-Kelamay Au-Cu-Mo-Cr belt. These belts host a number of deposits belonging to at least eight economically important styles, including epithermal Au, granite-related Be-U, volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) Cu-Zn, podiform chromite, porphyry Cu, hydrothermal quartz vein Au, porphyry-greisen Mo(-W), and orogenic Au. These deposit styles are associated with the tectonics prevalent during their formation. Five tectonic-mineralized epochs can be recognized: (1) Ordovician subduction-related VMS Cu-Zn deposit; (2) Devonian ophiolite-related podiform chromite deposit; (3) early Carboniferous subduction-related Be-U, porphyry Cu, and hydrothermal quartz vein Au deposits; and (5) late Carboniferous to early Permian subduction-related porphyry-greisen Mo(-W) and orogenic Au deposits.

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1. Introduction

The Central Asian Orogenic Belt (CAOB) is one of the largest orogenic collages in the world (Sengör et al., 1993; Jahn et al., 2000, 2004; Windley et al., 2007; Xiao et al., 2008, 2009, 2010a, 2013; Santosh and Kusky, 2010; Kröner et al., 2013, 2014; Xiao and Santosh, 2014). The West Junggar region in Xinjiang (NW China) is located in the loci of the CAOB (Fig. 1A) and is bounded by the Altai orogen to the north and by the Tianshan orogen to the south, and it extends westward to the Junggar-Balkhash region in adjacent Kazakhstan and eastward to the Junggar Basin in Xinjiang, China (Fig. 1B). It is a highly endowed metallogenic province in the CAOB with >100 tonnes Au, >0.7 Mt Cu, >0.3 Mt Mo, and >2.3 Mt chromite as well as significant amounts of Be and U. It hosts many mineral deposits, such as Baiyanghe Be-U deposit, Kurzhenkuola, Kuogesay and Hatu Au deposits, Hongguleleng Cu-Zn deposit, Sartuohai chromite deposit, Baogutu Cu deposit, and Suyunhe and Hongyuan Mo(-W) deposits (Shen et al., 1993; Zhou et al., 2001; Wang et al., 2005, 2006; Yuan et al., 2006; Zhou et al., 2006, 2008; Zhu and Xu, 2006; Song et al., 2007; An and Zhu, 2010; Shen et al., 2010a,b; Tan and Zhu, 2010; Wei and Zhu, 2010; Pirajno et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2012; Zhang and Zhang, 2014). The spatial and temporal distribution of these deposits relates to their formation within a unique tectonic framework.

In this article we identify three metallogenic belts and describe the selected deposits of the West Junggar region using published literature and our own field observations. We also review the relationship between the deposits' metallogenesis and the tectonic settings and discuss models that attempt to explain the links of these deposits to aspects of the geodynamic evolution of the West Junggar region.

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Figure 1. (A) Location of the study area in the Central Asian Orogenic Belt (modified after Jahn et al., 2000; Xiao et al., 2008, 2009). (B) Geological map of the West Junggar (modified after Shen et al., 1993; Chen et al., 2010; Shen et al., 2012a).

2. Geological outline

The West Junggar region has several mountains (Fig. 1B). The Saur, Tarbahatai, Xiemisitai, and Sharburti mountains are approximately E-trending in the northern part of the West Junggar region. The Barluke mountains and Kelamay region are mainly NE-trending in the southern part of the West Junggar region.

Geologically, in the northern part of the West Junggar region, the late Paleozoic volcanic rocks exclusively outcrop in the Saur mountains and the early Paleozoic volcanic rocks are confined to the Xiemisitai and Sharburt mountains (Fig. 1B). Strata from Ordovician to Permian are well-exposed (Zhu and Xu, 2006; Shen et al., 2008, 2012a; Zhou et al., 2008). In the southern part of the West Junggar region, the late Paleozoic volcanic rocks exclusively Download English Version:

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