



Effects of Regional Metamorphism on Karst Bauxite Deposits in Northwestern Iran

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Opinion

Karst bauxite deposits in northwestern Iran are part of the Irano-Himalayan bauxite belt [1,2]. These deposits are similar to the Mediterranean-type karst bauxite deposits [3-5]. The Saqqez region in northwestern Iran is one of the typical and interesting regions in the world where bauxite deposits have undergone regional metamorphism. The Permian bauxite deposits developed on limestone and dolomitic limestone bedrocks of the Ruteh Formation have been affected by metamorphism processes. The bauxite ores show various colors, including green, dark green, cream, greenish cream, grey, red, brownish red, white, and yellow. Based on microscopic studies and XPRD analyses, the residual ores consist of a mineral assemblage of diaspore, corundum, hematite, magnetite, goethite, rutile, paragonite, margarite, amesite, berthierine, nacrite, chlorite, illite, montmorillonite, pyrophyllite, chloritoid, muscovite, quartz, pyrite, anhydrite, ankerite, ilmenite, calcite, and dolomite. In the Saqqez bauxite ores, paragonite, margarite, chloritoid, and corundum are the products of regional metamorphism processes. The second latter minerals occur at conditions close to the upper limit of the greenschist facies. It can be deduced that a mineral assemblage of chloritoid-diaspore-kaolinite-magnetite-hematite in the northwestern Iran bauxite ores was formed by the following reactions:

Kaolinite + 6Diaspore + Magnetite = 12 Chloritoid + 6H₂O + 2O₂

Kaolinite + Diaspore + 6 Hematite = 12 Chloritoid + 6H₂O + 3O₃

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