

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE GREAT SOIL GROUPS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

By

CHARLES E. KELLOGG

Principal Soil Scientist, Division of Soil Survey
Bureau of Chemistry and Soils



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INTRODUCTION

It is the purpose of this publication to summarize the recent knowledge regarding the formation and significance of the great soil groups of the United States for the general reader. The treatment is in no sense complete or exhaustive. Attention is directed toward a discussion of those principles of broad implication. Should the reader require more specificity, the detailed reports of surveys and researches must be consulted.

The nature of soils and the environmental factors responsible for their genesis are briefly discussed. Illustrations are included of each of the great groups of soils, and their particular evolution is explained. The practical implications of a knowledge of the great soil regions and their relationship to the biological complex, and consequently to human institutions, are pointed out. Within these large soil groups, developed in association with their characteristic vegetation and under the dominating influence of climate and vegetation, are important variations in soils due to the influence of local