The classical approach to explain foreland-basin subsidence suffers from two oversimplifications: the inadequacy of static forces such as loads to model a dynamic system, and the failure to acknowledge the essential difference between foreland basins associated with Himalayan-type orogens, retroarc basins associated with Andean-type orogens, and foredeeps associated with Apenninic-type orogens. These problems are discussed based on the available stratigraphic, petrographic, and mineralogical evidence from sediments deposited in the Himalayan foreland basin since India-Asia collision onset at ~60 Ma.

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