

Turning history on its head
Massive evidence of a global flood
What does it all mean?

Part 2 -- Gold Mines in South Africa



Courtesy of Mark Grave

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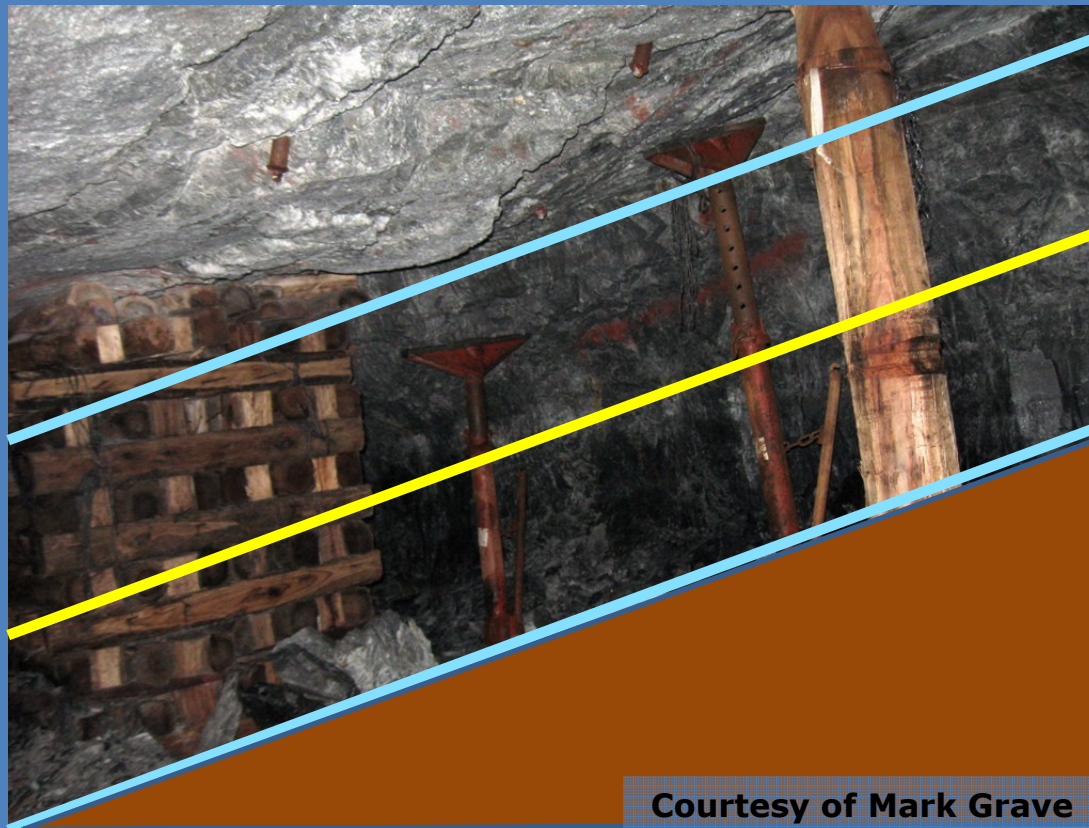
Part 2 -- Gold Mines in South Africa



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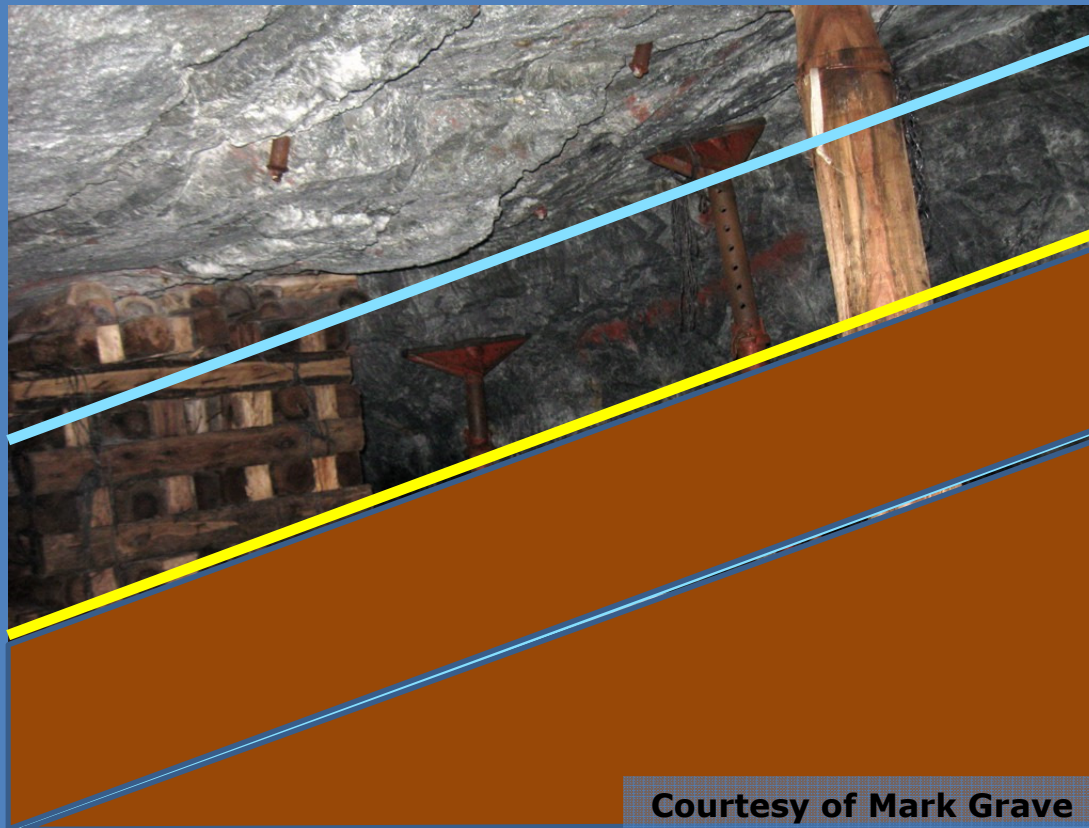
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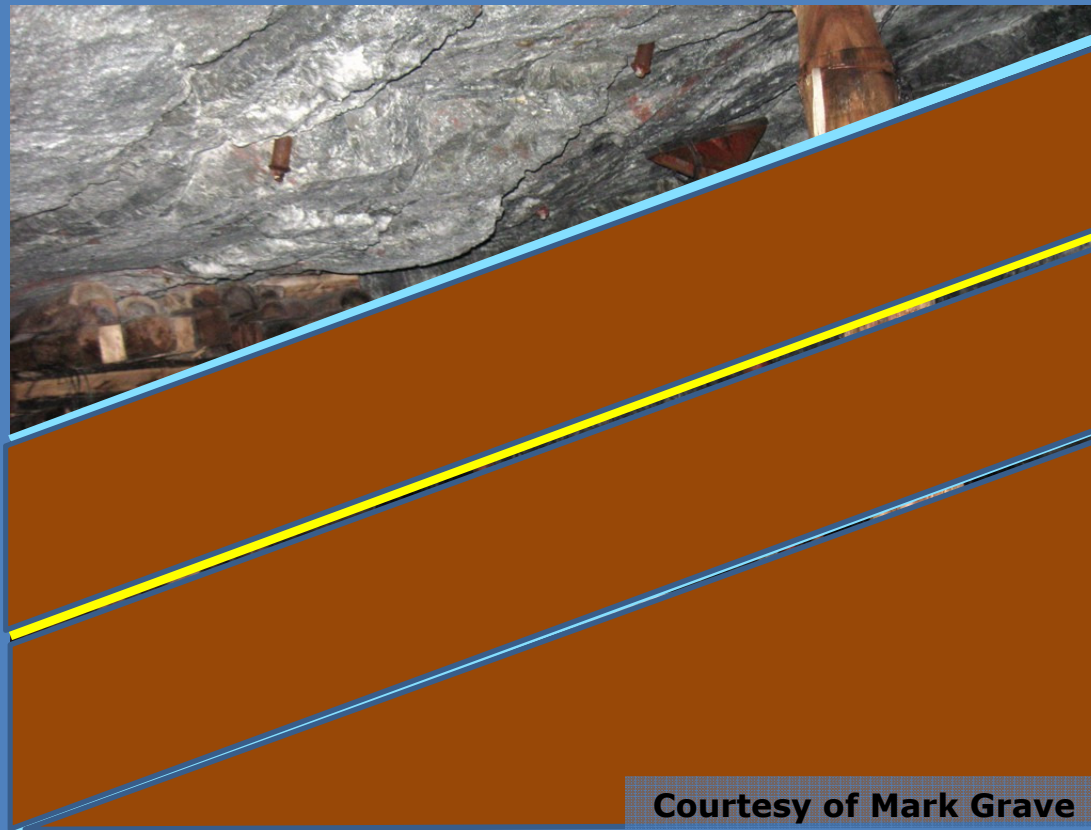
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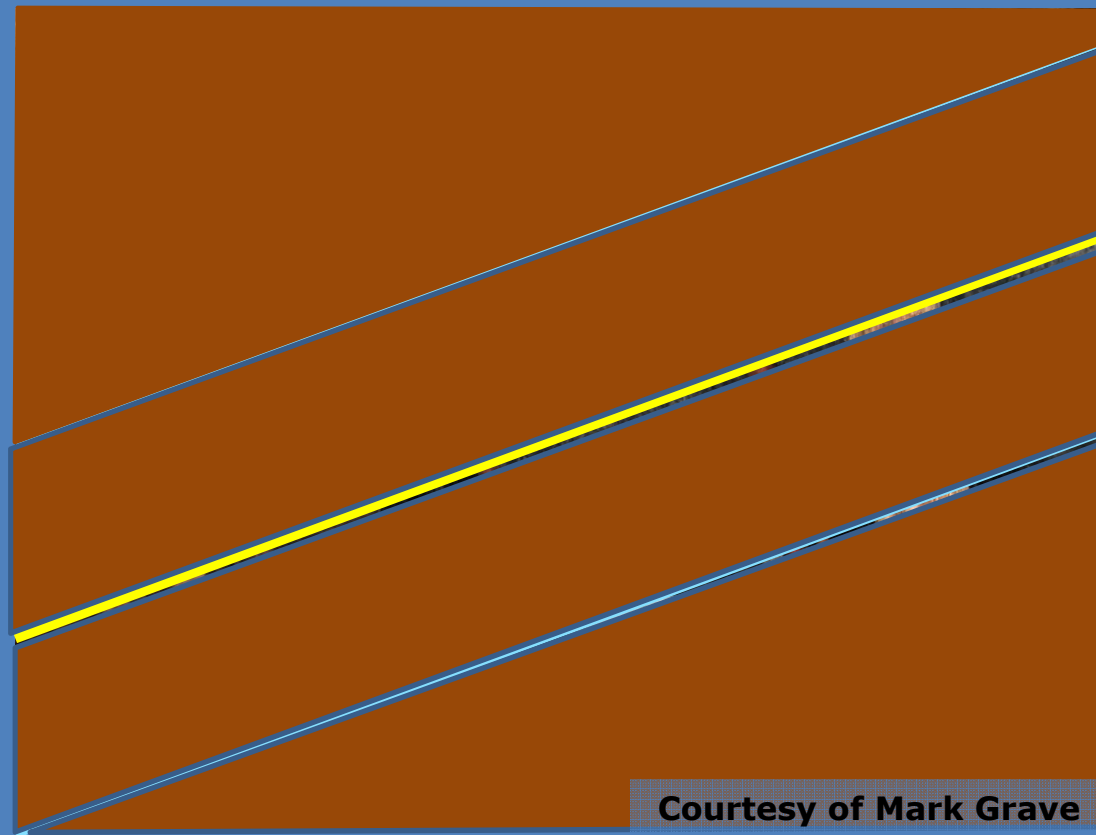
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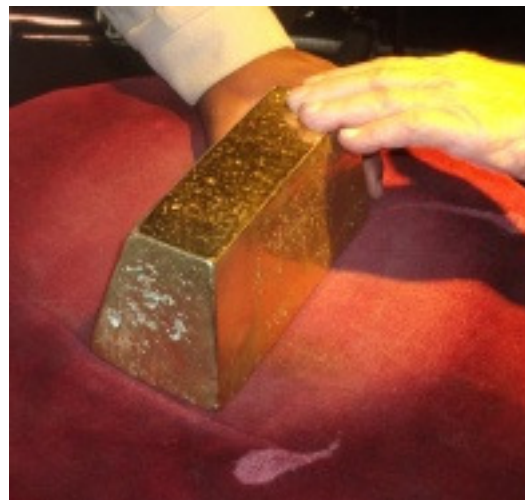
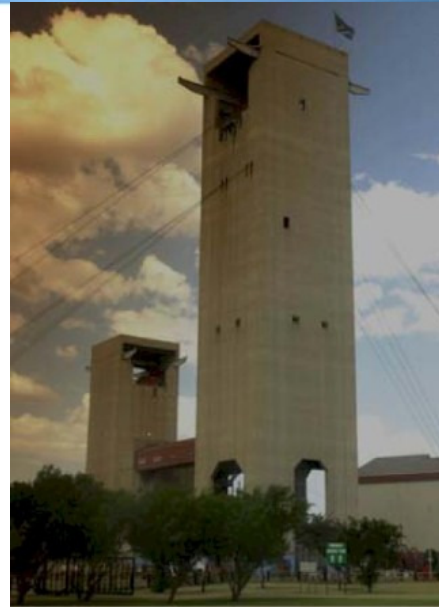
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Courtesy of Mark Grave

Gold mining, a precision industry



Gold mining, massive machinery, energy, force



Gold mining, a precision industry



- The Gold is in thin veins which must be carefully located and traced and blasted out of extremely hard rock
- Locating the Gold is a major activity with exploration drilling from the surface
- The Gold bearing rock (ore) must be kept separate from the waste rock, dilution is a major cost driver
- The ore is crushed very finely and the gold is extracted chemically with a very precise process
- The gold is then extracted from the chemical mix and smelted in a furnace from which rough gold bars are produced
- Fine gold is extracted and then sold for manufacturing of jewellery, electronic circuitry, etc
- South Africa has produced 40% of recent world Gold production from these mines



Deepest Gold Mine over 3.9 kilometers deep



World's Deepest Mines Highlight Risks of New Gold Rush - Windows Internet Explorer

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Saturday, June 26, 2010

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World's Deepest Mines Highlight Risks of New Gold Rush

Nicholas Wadhams in Nairobi, Kenya for National Geographic News November 6, 2007

As gold prices reach near-record highs, South Africa's mining companies are keeping up by drilling to record depths.

The Gold Fields Ltd company intends to set a new record by drilling down 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) at its Driefontein mine, about 37 miles (60 kilometers) southwest of Johannesburg. An estimated 8.5 million ounces (240 million grams) of gold is thought to lie at such depths. (See a [map of South Africa](#).)

Meanwhile, mining firm AngloGold Ashanti, which currently has the world's deepest mine,

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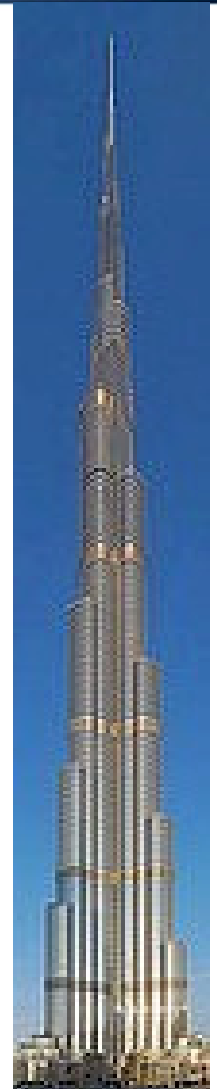
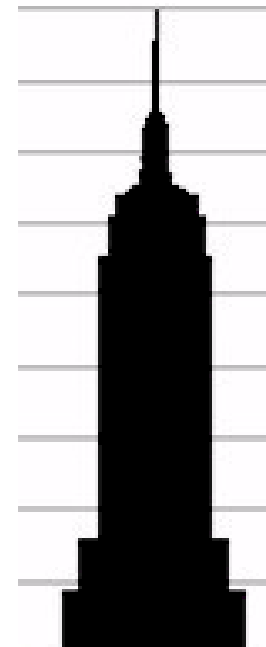
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The Great Energy Challenge

Deepest Gold Mine over 3.9 kilometers deep



- 14.5 x Hillbrow Tower
- 4.7 x Burj Khalifa
- 2 kilometers BELOW sea level



The same geological formation as Northcliff and the Magaliesberg



Northcliff

Magaliesberg



Gold Mine

+/- 50 km
North



+/- 0.5 to 4 km
Underground



~ 5 km to
100 km
South

The same geological formation as Northcliff and the Magaliesberg



Northcliff

Magaliesberg



Gold Mine



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Hard metamorphosed rock



Northcliff – vitrified (ceramic) Quartzite – intense heat and pressure

Gold mine– vitrified (ceramic) Quartzite – intense heat and pressure

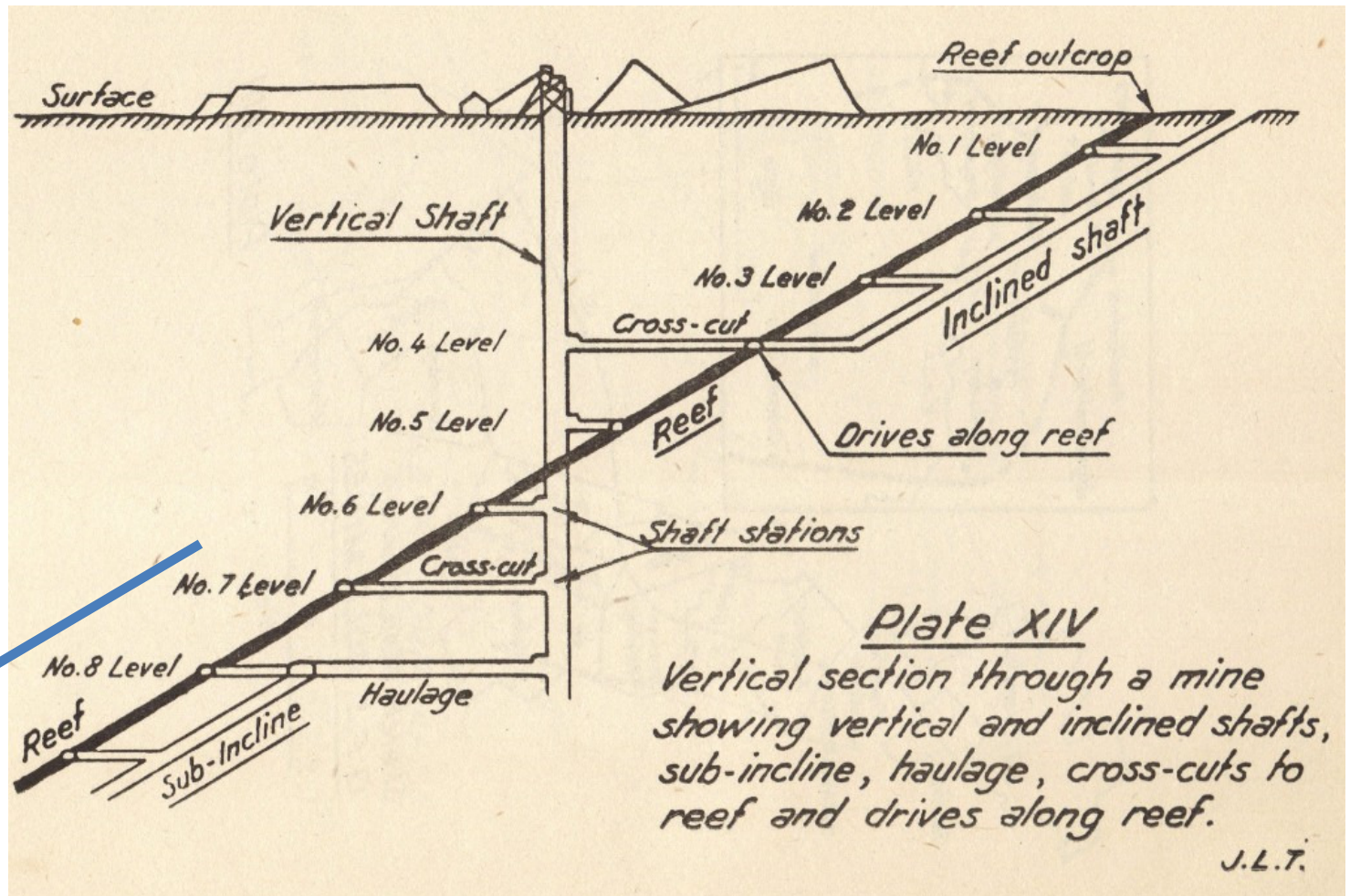


Dipping at about 30 degrees



Horizontally deposited under water but now dipping about thirty degrees

How did this Happen?



Dipping at about 30 degrees



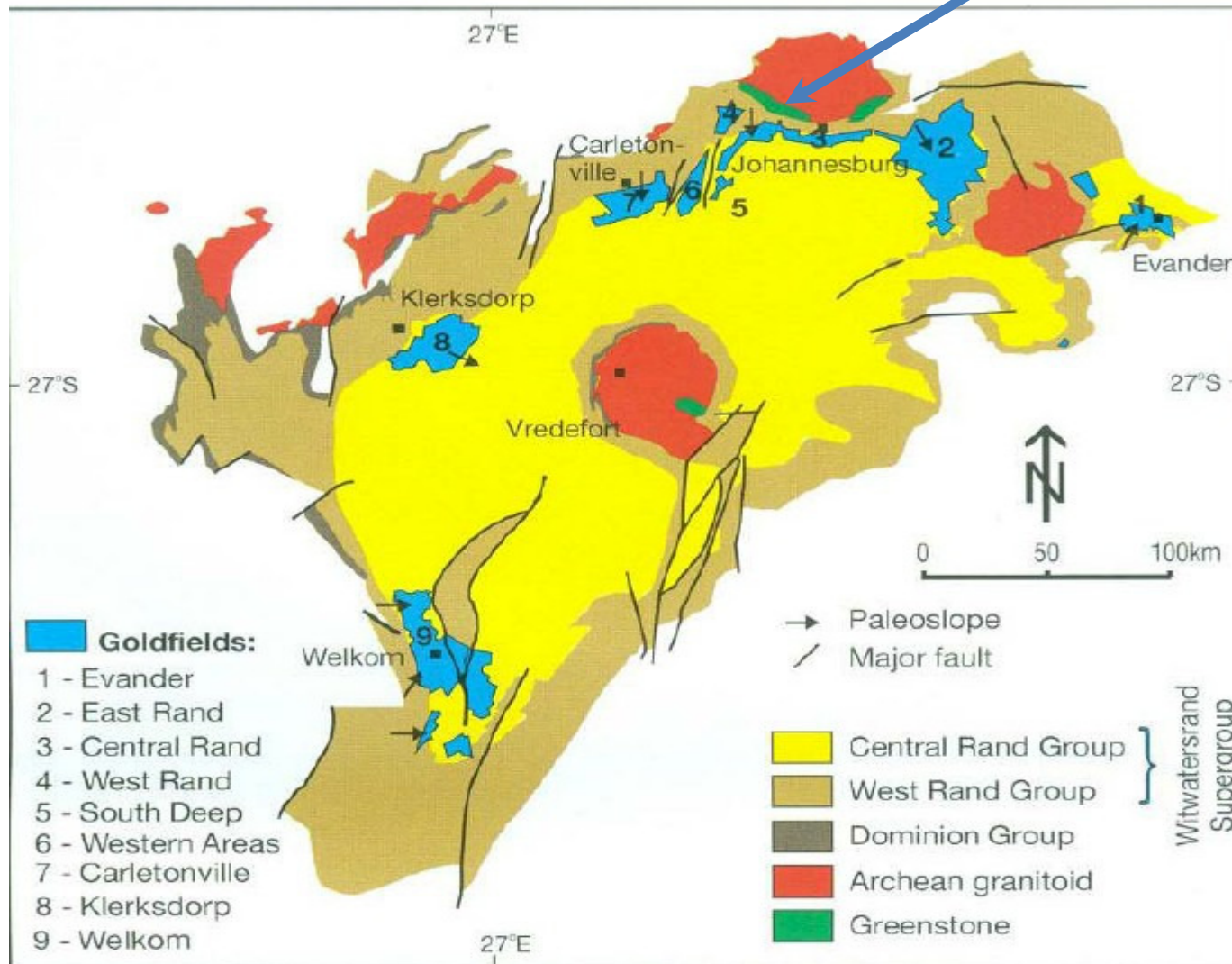
Highly complex geology



Gold fields Dispersed and highly faulted



Witwatersrand Goldfields

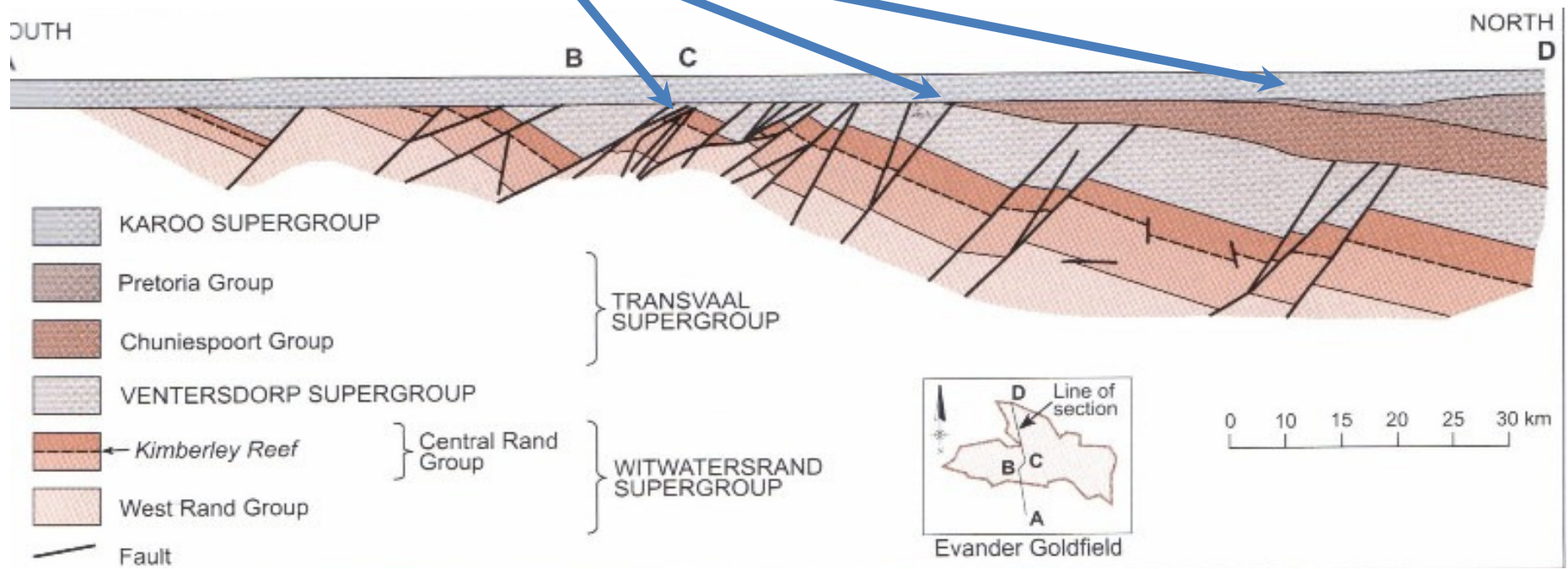


Highly faulted



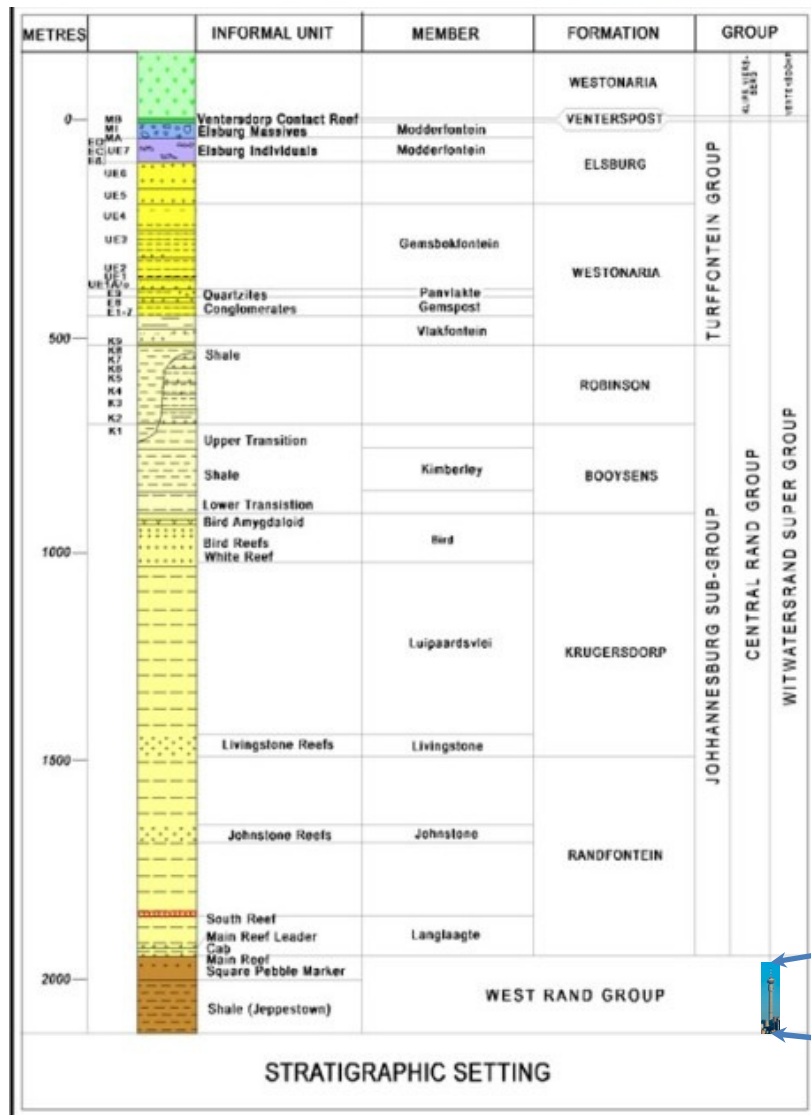
THE WITWATERSRAND SUPERGROUP

- Top cut off level
- Horizontal deposits on top



g. 20 North-south section across the Evander Basin (modified after E.B. Tweedie, 1986).

Great depth and extent Stratigraphic column



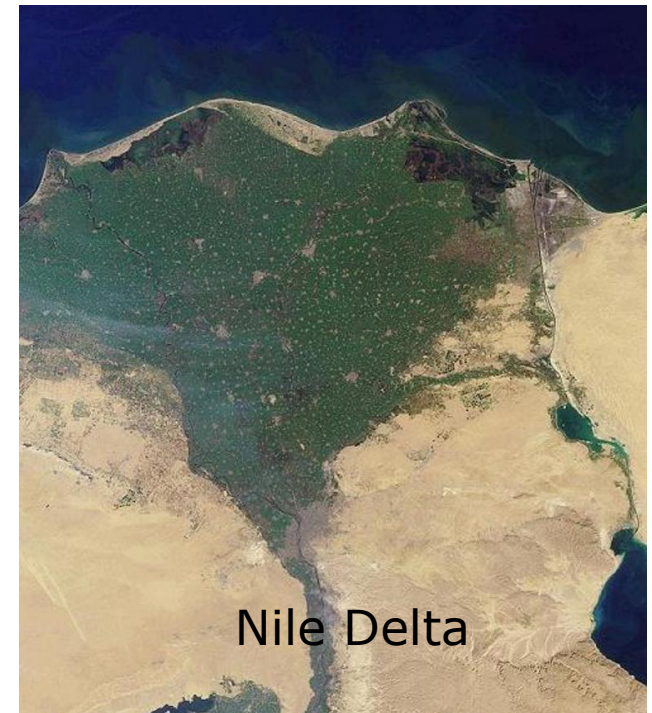
- Stratigraphic column over 2,000m vertical depth = 7.4 x Hillbrow Tower
- i.e. The body of water in which this material was deposited was able to receive the discharge of two (2) kilometers vertical depth of sediment
- And there had to be a source of material for two kilometers of deposition
- And the deepest mines are close to four (4) kilometers deep, that is over two (2) kilometers BELOW current SEA LEVEL



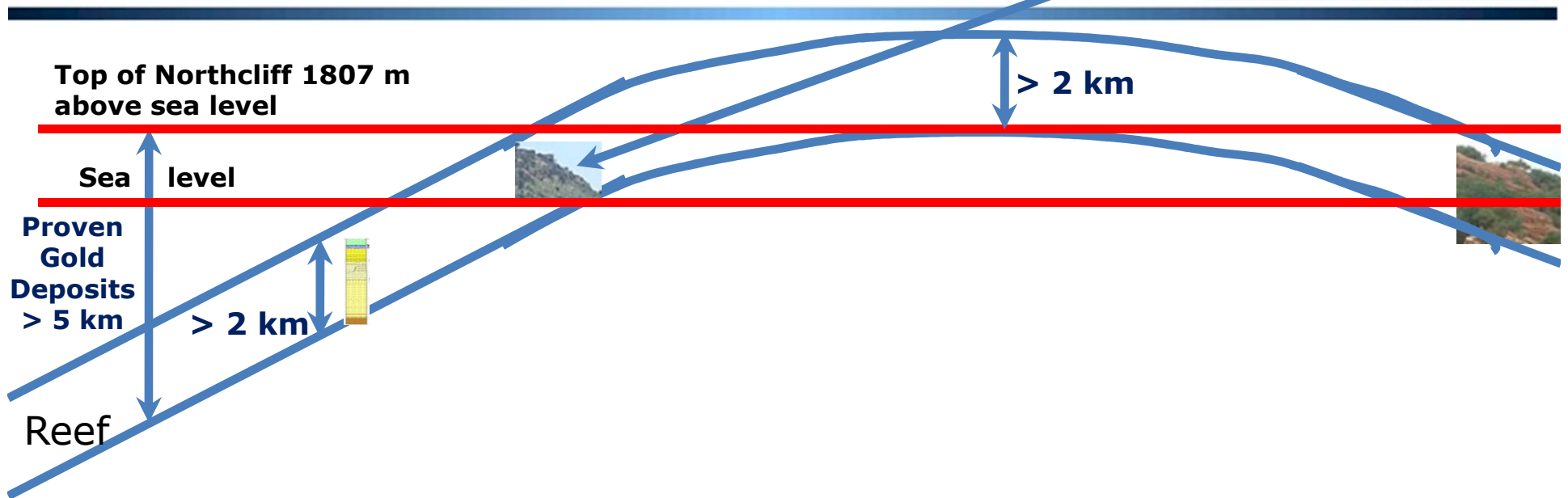
Massive hydraulic action



- Required a very large body of water in terms of depth, extent and erosion sources
- NOT a stream deposited formation or delta – the ore bodies are of reasonably uniform thickness and wide extent
- A VERY VERY VERY LARGE SEA
- Widespread uniform deposition implies
 - widespread uniform sea
 - high velocity deposition



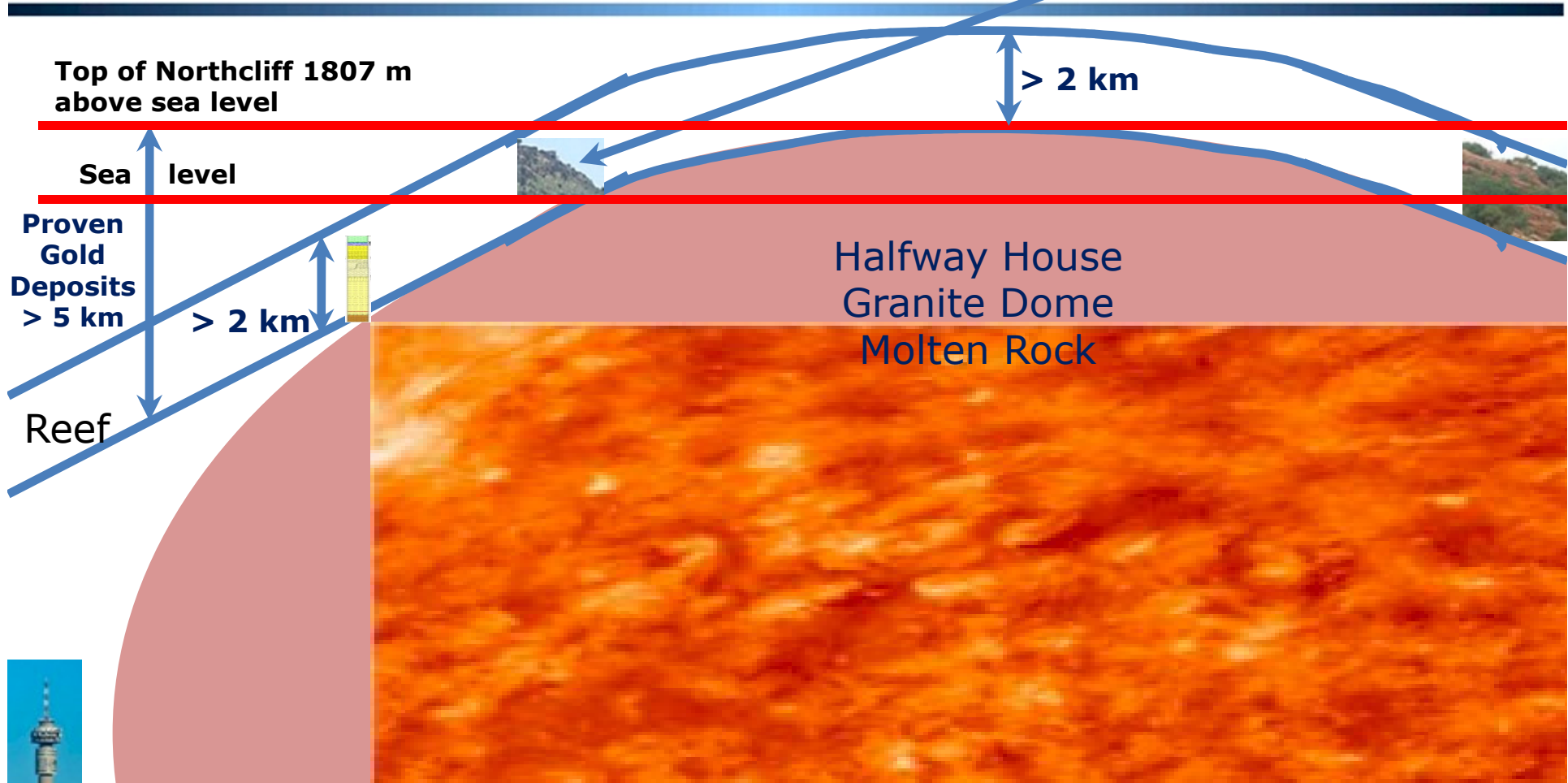
Massive depth and extent of water Massive surface vertical displacement



2 km = 7.4 x Hillbrow Tower

5 km = 18.6 x Hillbrow Tower

Massive depth and extent of water Massive surface vertical displacement



2 km = 7.4 x Hillbrow Tower

5 km = 18.6 x Hillbrow Tower

Summing up



- Huge depth and extent
- Horizontally deposited but now sloping steeply
- Massive faulting
- Can only result from deposition in water over a large area
- Subject to intense pressure and temperature
- Where did it come from?
- How did it happen?

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**Continued in part 3
Global occurrence of layered
sedimentary rocks**



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