

The Dragon Head's story: Water/Land Conflict in Shanghai

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Dragon culture in China



Nine Dragon Wall

Dragon dance

In China, the Yangtze (Changjiang) River is often likened to a "Dragon" because of its length and importance.....



长 "Chang" – long 江 "Jiang" – river



...and Shanghai to the Dragon's Head because of its position and leading role in economy.



East China Sea

Yangtze River

Shanghai

Making up only one thousandth of total area or one hundredth of total population in China, Shanghai contributes more then one tenth of the country's revenue.

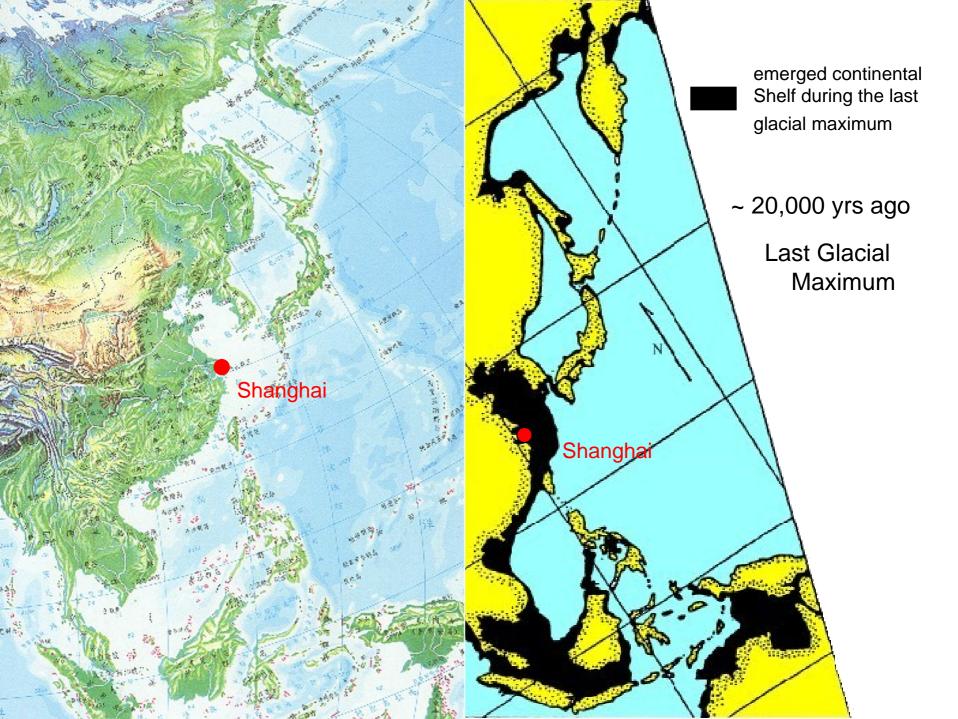
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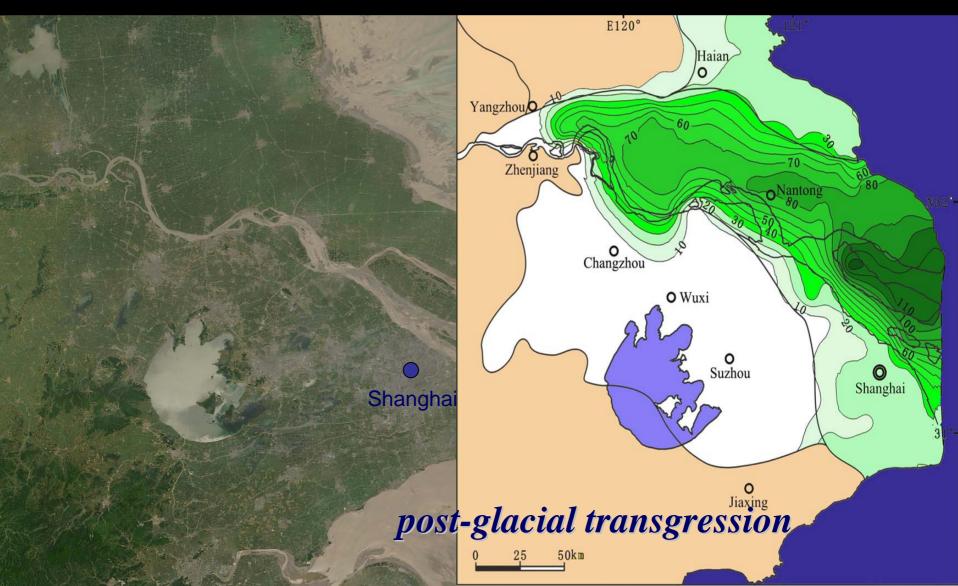
The Dragon Head's story: Water/Land Conflict in Shanghai

- Land emergence
- Land subsidence
- Land acclamation

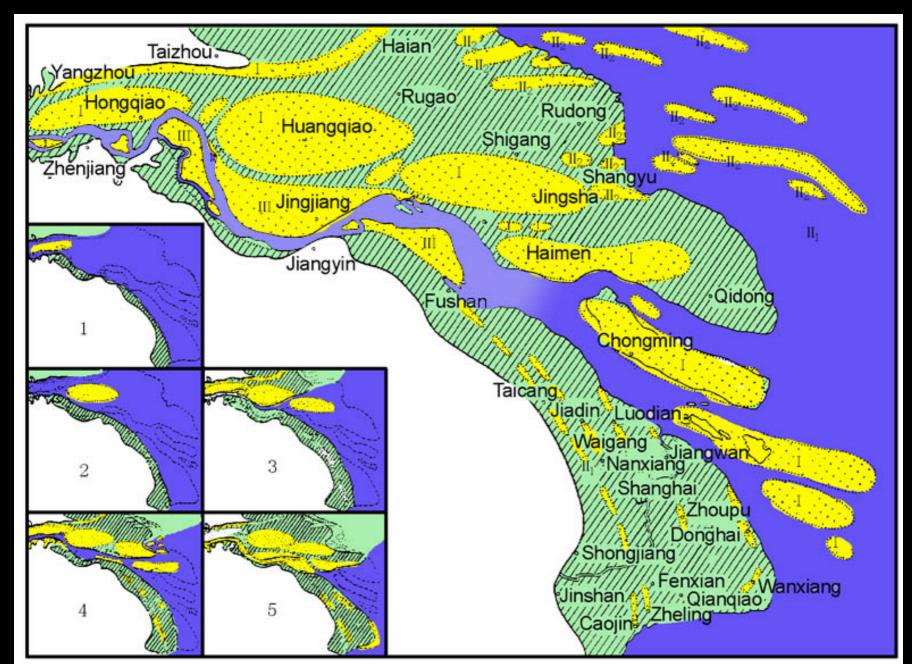


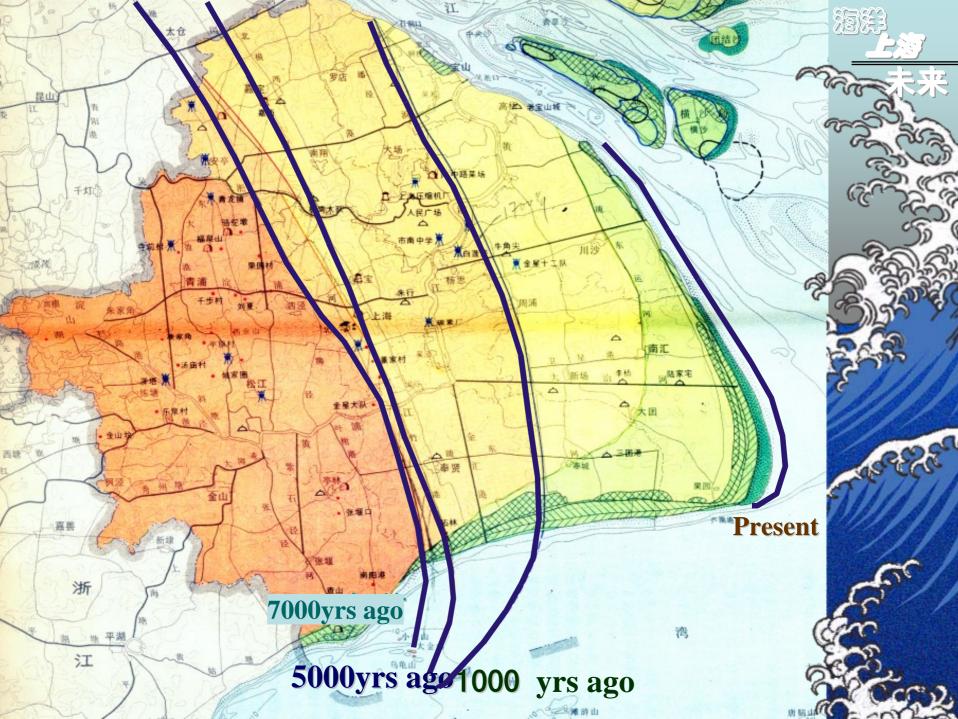


In result of the post-glacial sea transgression, the Yangtze delta at ~7,000 years ago was a part of the East China Sea, and the eastern part of Shanghai was covered by sea water.



Progradation of the Yangtze River delta

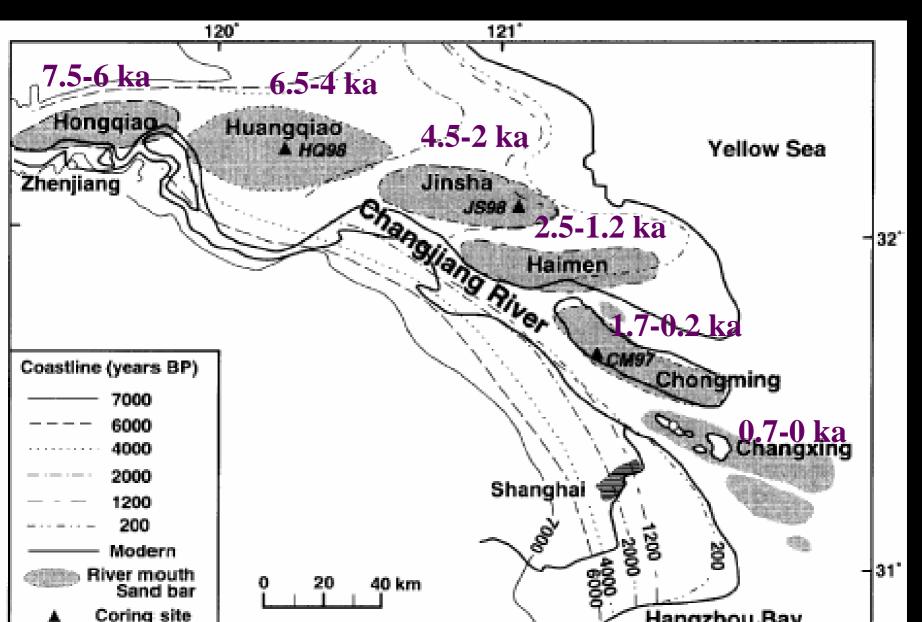


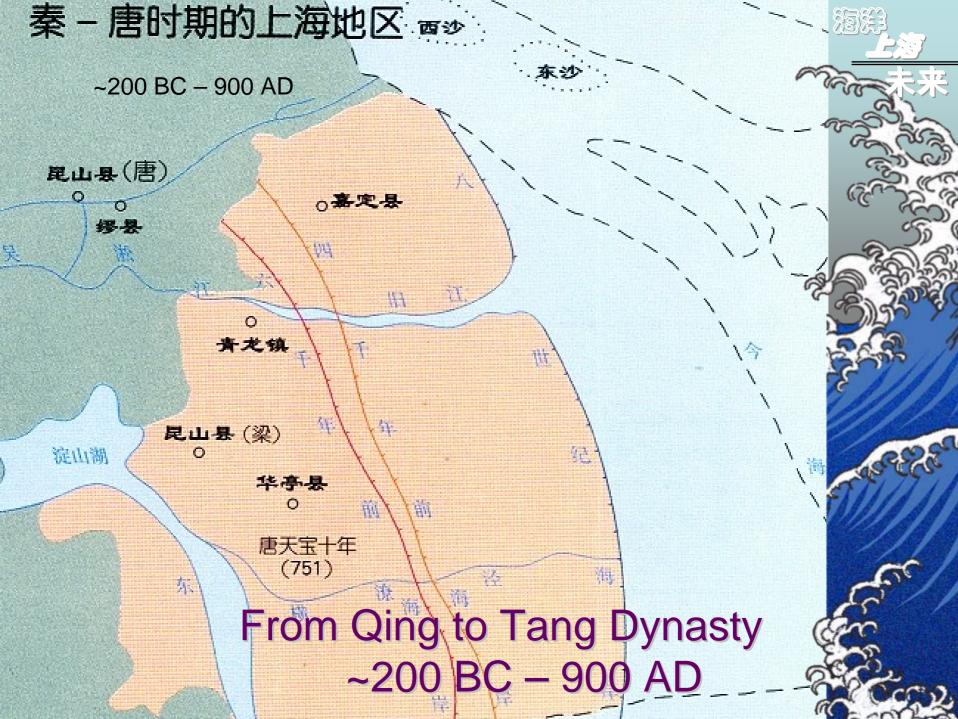


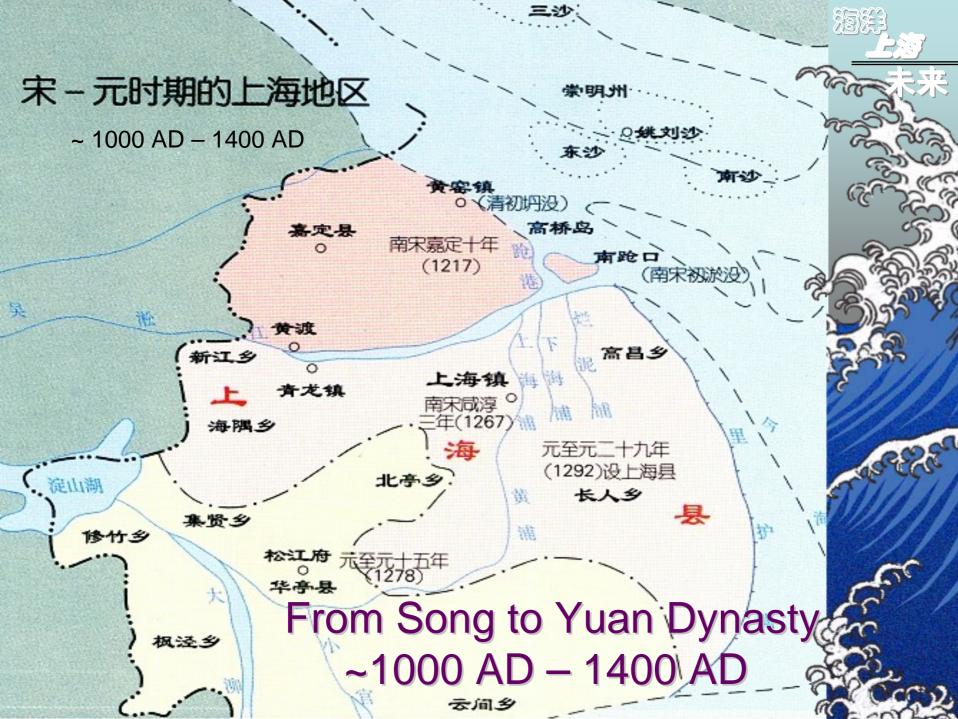
Water/Land Conflict in Shanghai

Since ~ 7,000 years ago: Progradation of the Yangtze Delta Growth of land at the cost of sea

Shoreline changes and river-mouth sand-bar evolution since 7000 yr B.P.









Modern Shanghai and the delta



Changjiang Delta

- \approx ~ 50,000 km² in area
- Administratively, it covers entire
 Shanghai and partly
 Jiangsu and Zhejiang



Changjiang Delta Ecomonic Zone

 ~100,000 km² in area, ~75,000,000 population, 16 cities

2%

10%

26%

37%

53%

area

GPT

export

population

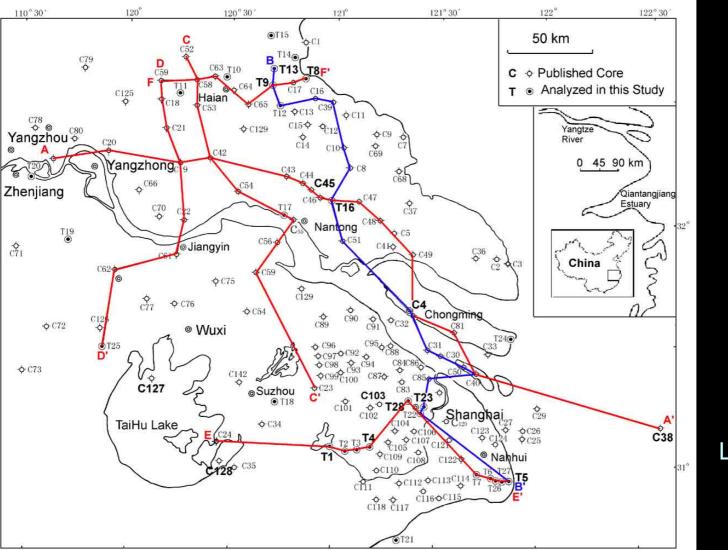
international

investment

• Shanghai + Jiangsu + Zhejiang:



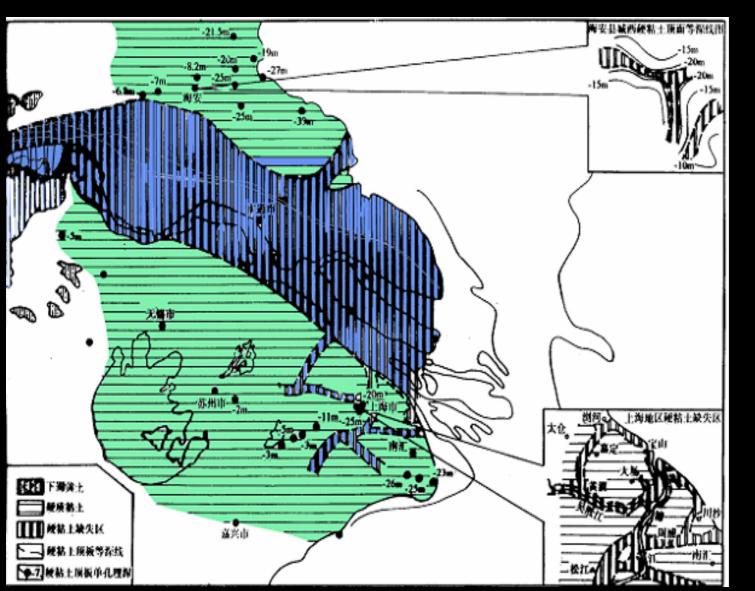
Location of drilling cores and cross-sections



>600 drilling cores

Li et al., 2000

incised valley formed during the lowered sealevel stand at MIS 2

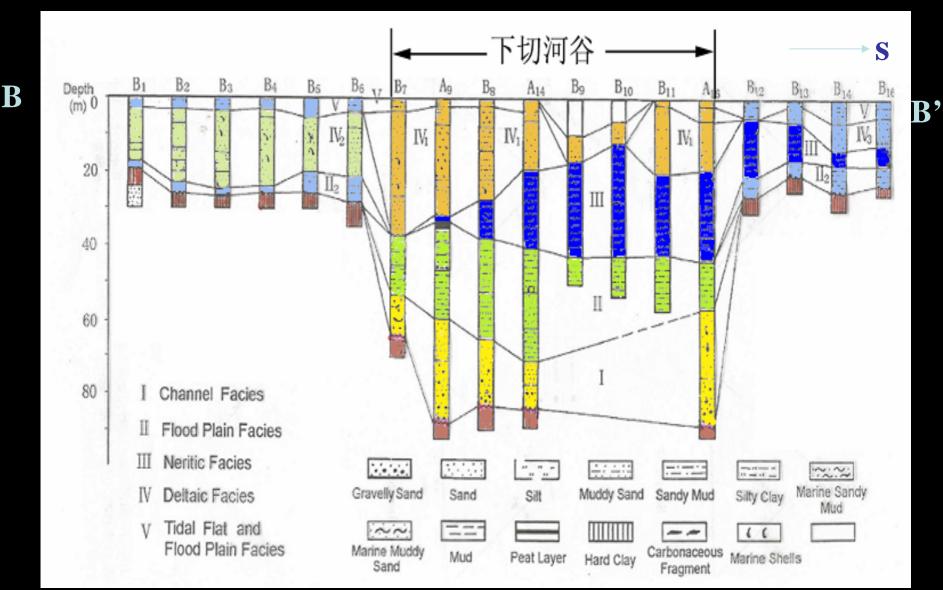


wide 20-60 km deep 60-80 m

Li et al., 2000

Cross-section across the river channel

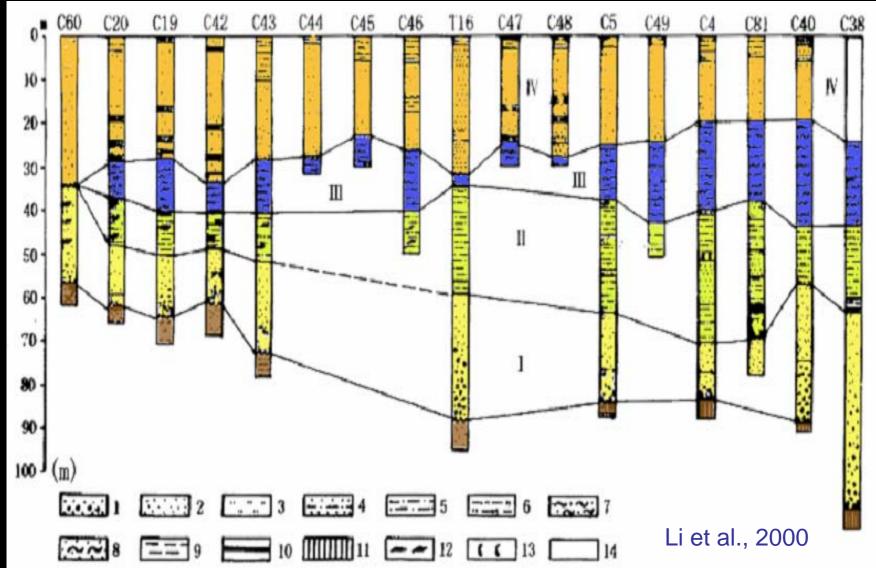
Li et al., 2000

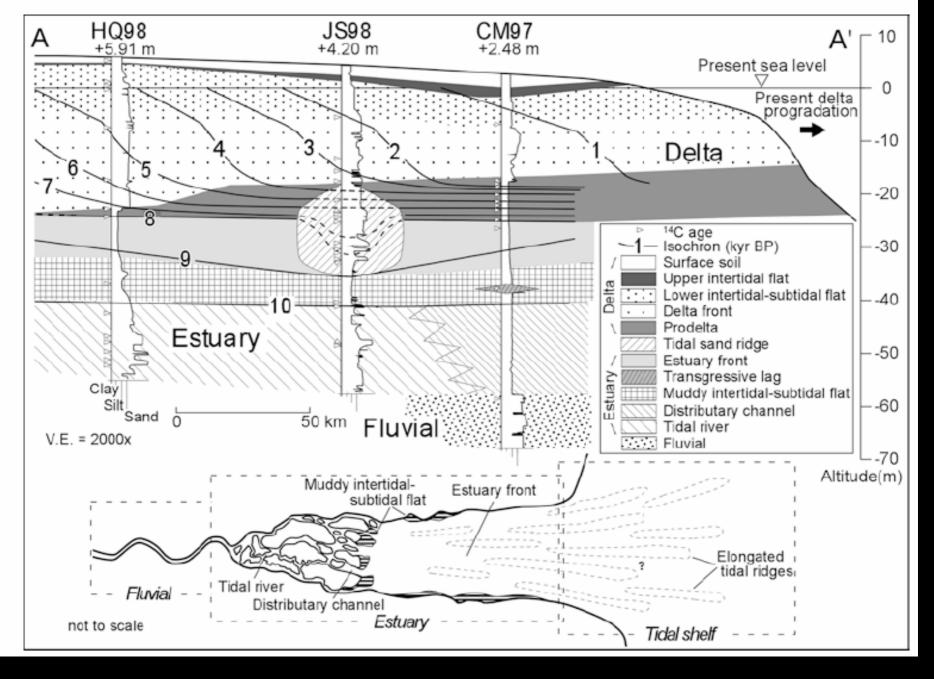


Cross-section along the river channel

seaward

MFS





Hori, Sito, Zhao, Wang, 2002

The river-channel facies



From bottom to top

The floodplain-estuary facies



The estuary-prodelta facies



Maximum flooding surface

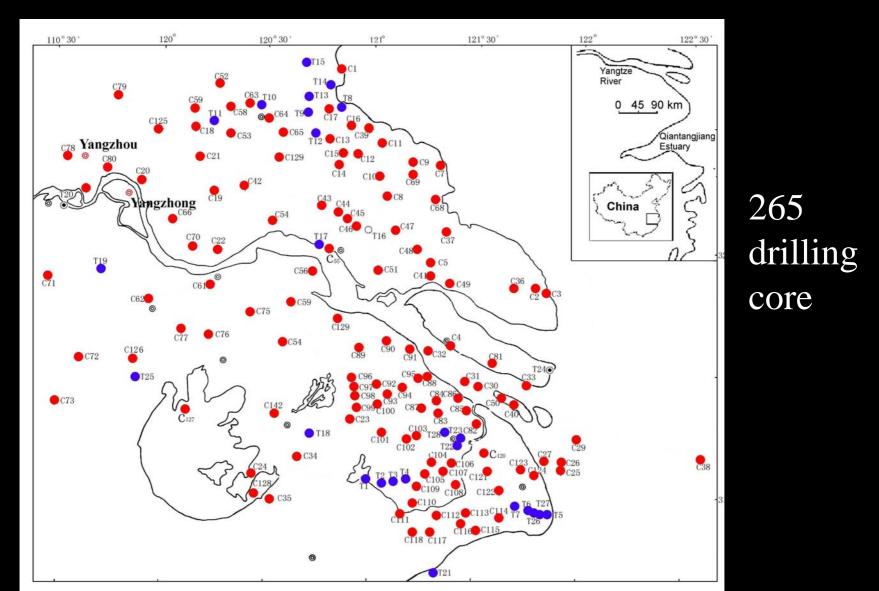
Delta-front facies



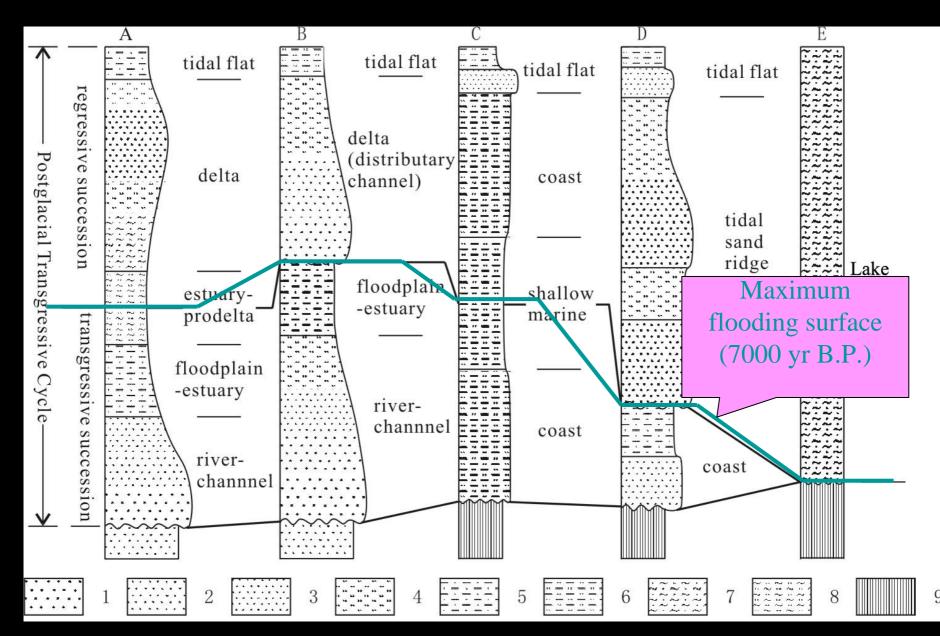
Subtidal-intertidal facies

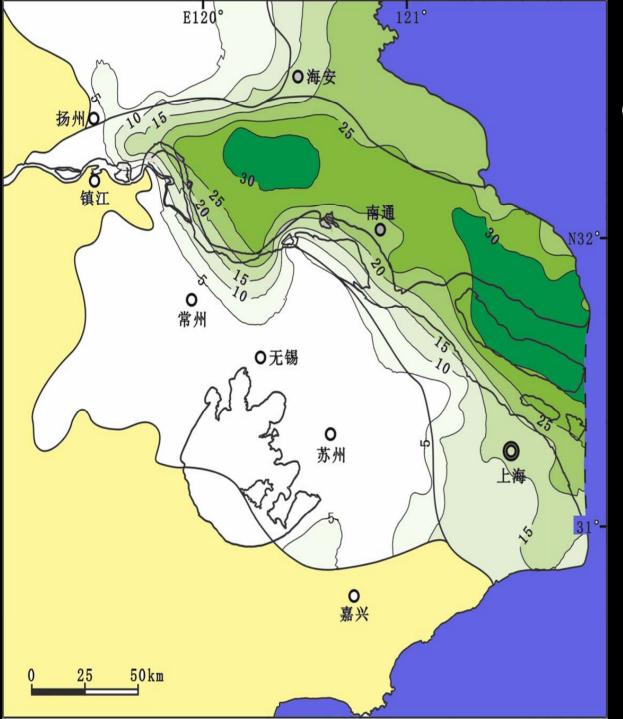


Sediment flux



Thickness of postglacial deposits and deltaic deposit since 7000 yr B.P.





Thickness contours: deltaic deposits since 7000 yr B.P.

> Volume of deltaic deposits: $500 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$

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- Land subsidence
- Land acclamation



Shanghai is a delta plain with an altitude of 3-5 m in average. Underlain by unconsolidated deposits over 300m in thickness, the city is highly susceptible to both sea level rising and and compression.

"She-Shan"

+ 90 m

5.0

(m, 吴淞高

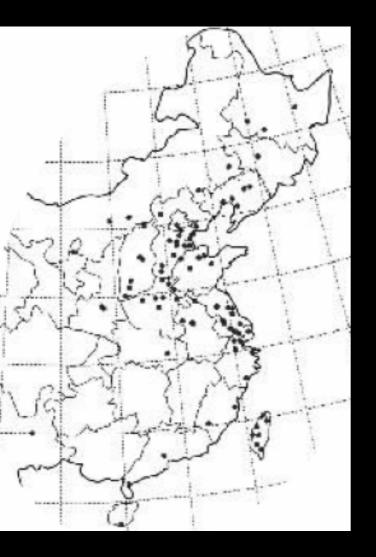
Topography

Of Shanghai

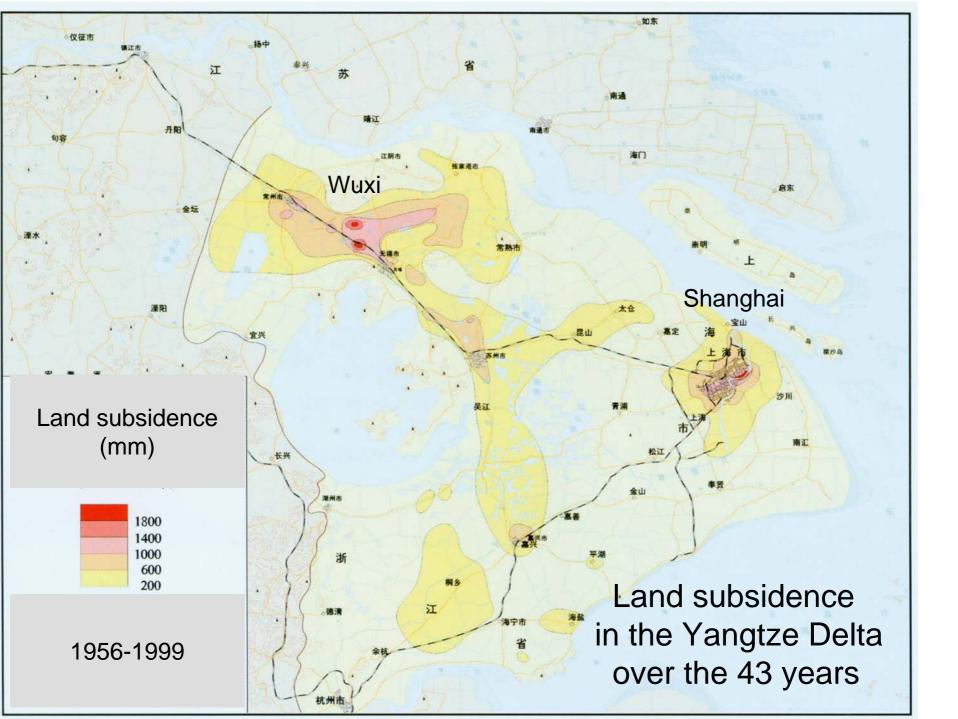
Sea level change and land subsidence

- Sea-level rise: 2 mm/year
- Land subsidence in Shanghai: since 1921, 2.63 m over the ~ 80 years
- Mainly due to the ground water use
- Strict control in Shanghai, but no control for the delta-wise reservoir

Land subsidence in China



- Over 90 medium to large size cities in China suffer from the land subsidence problem
- In Shanghai and Tianjin land subsidence was initially fond in the early 1920s, but greatly deteriorated in the 1960s.

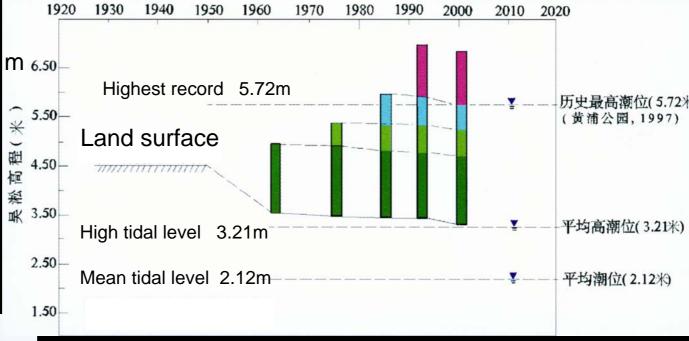


The Bund – representative place of subsidence record

Shanghai Downtown

The bund





In result of land subsidence, the land surface became lower than the higher tidal level, and the Bund has been most sensitive to the high tides and river floods.





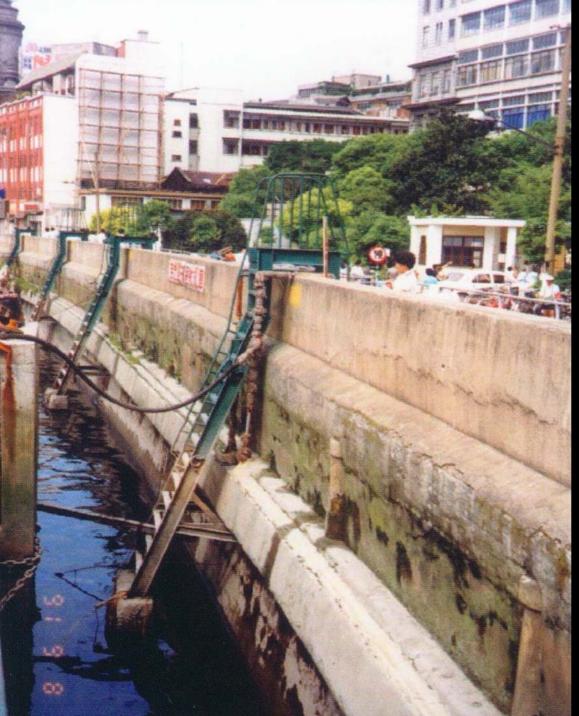
1920s - no dyke

1962 dyke -- 4.94m

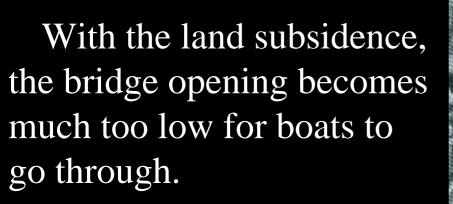
Evolution of 1974 dyke – 5.8m flood-preventing dyke at the Bund, Shanghai



1992 dyke – 6.9m



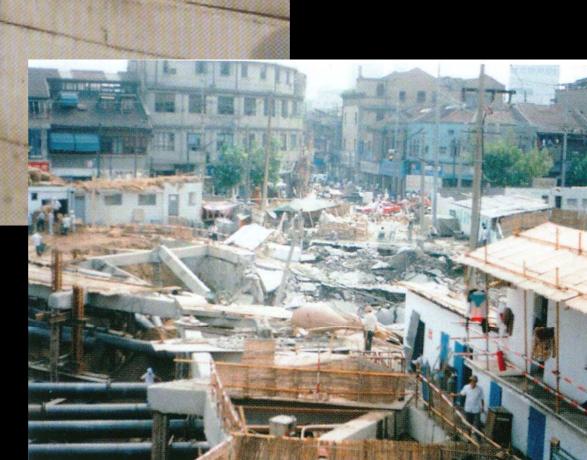
Step-wise increase of the dyke height, responding to the progressively subsiding land.







Even buildings and bridges could collapse due to land subsidence

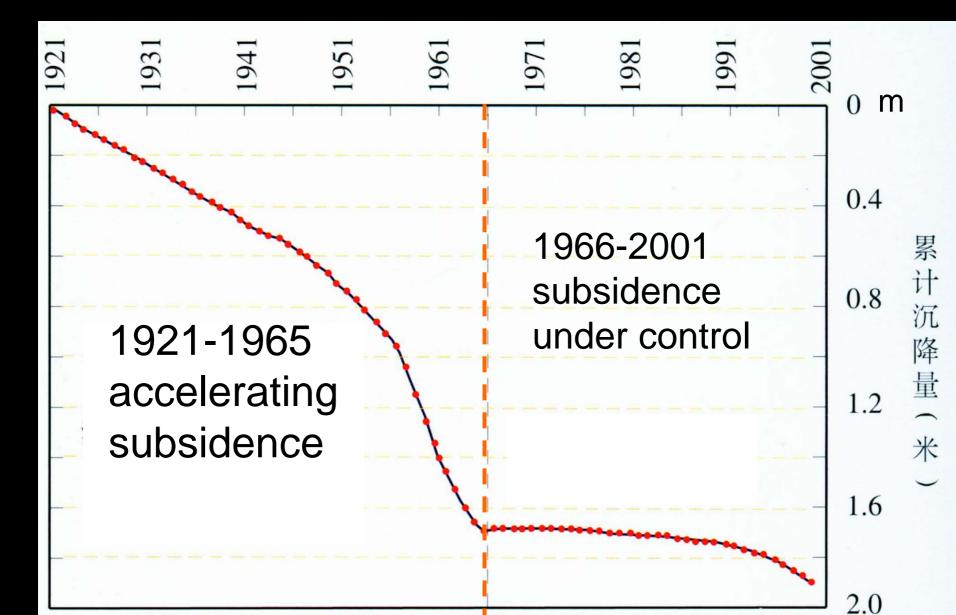


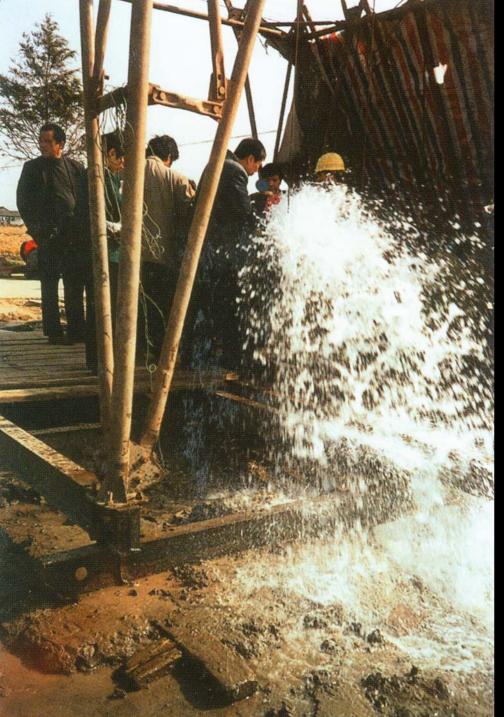


August 2, 1962 Shanghai downtown was badly flooded

Shanghai was suffering from frequent floods, as the river water level became higher then the land surface

Accumulative land subsidence in Shanghai over 80 years





- Why the accelerating land subsidence?
- The main root lies in the intensive use of subsurface water.

The Use of Ground Water in Shanghai



The first "deep" hole was drilled in 1860 near the Bund. The 76.8 m deep well was used for drinking water in the Company

Messers Russell & Co.

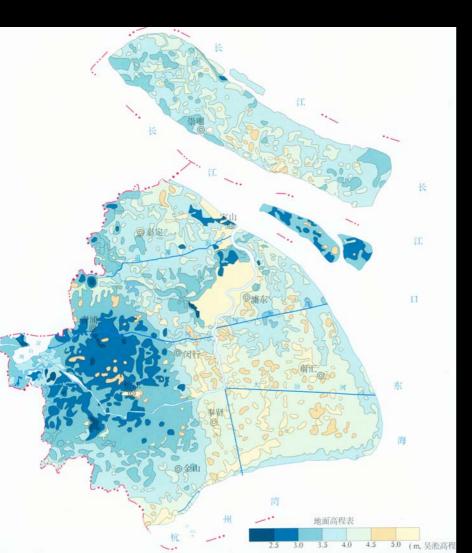
1860

Ground water exploration in Shanghai

Messers Russell & Co.

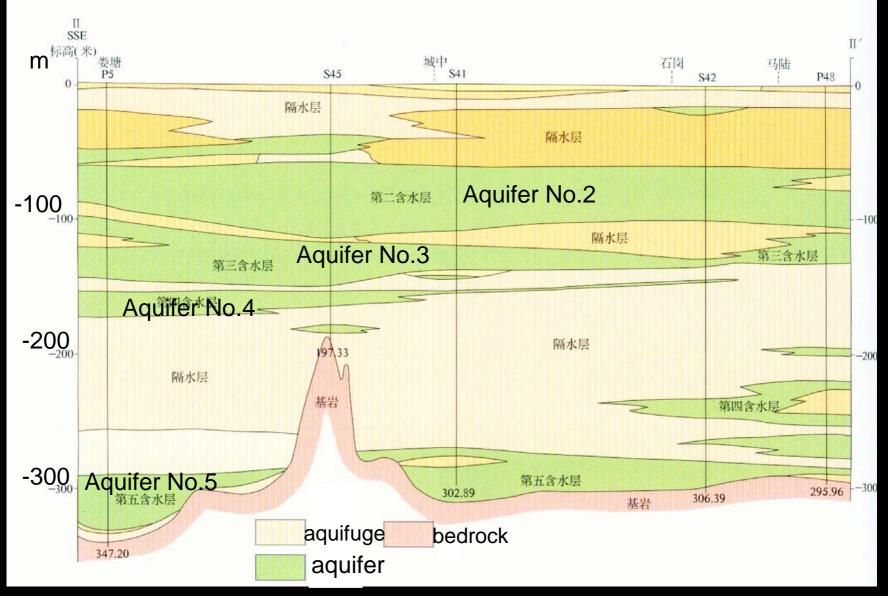
Ground waters up to 200m deep were used as drinking water in many western companies in the early 20th century

Ground water exploration in Shanghai



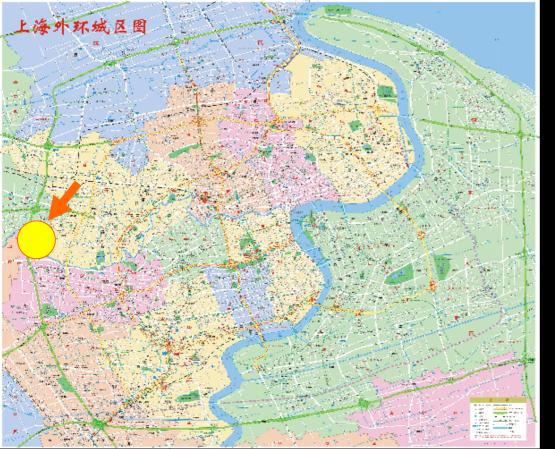
By 1949, there were 708 wells pumping drinking waters from the 4th (~ 200m deep) and 5th (250-280 m) aquifers in Shanghai.

Distribution of ground water in Shanghai



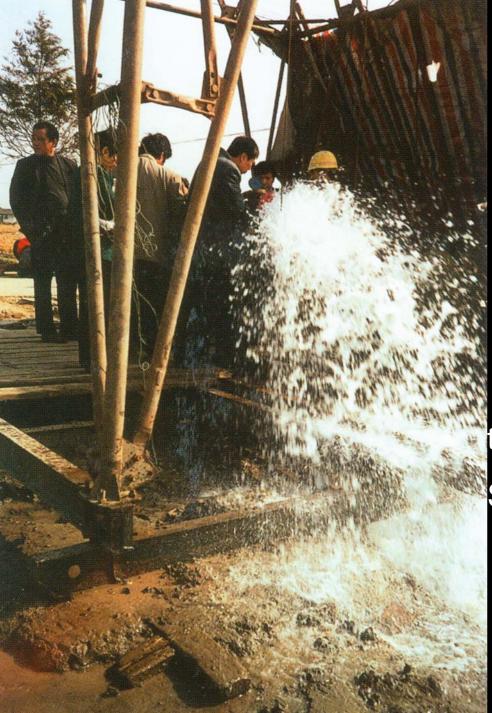
All the Aquifers No.2-5 have been mined for industrial and resident's use

Mineral waters from the deep aquifers in Shanghai



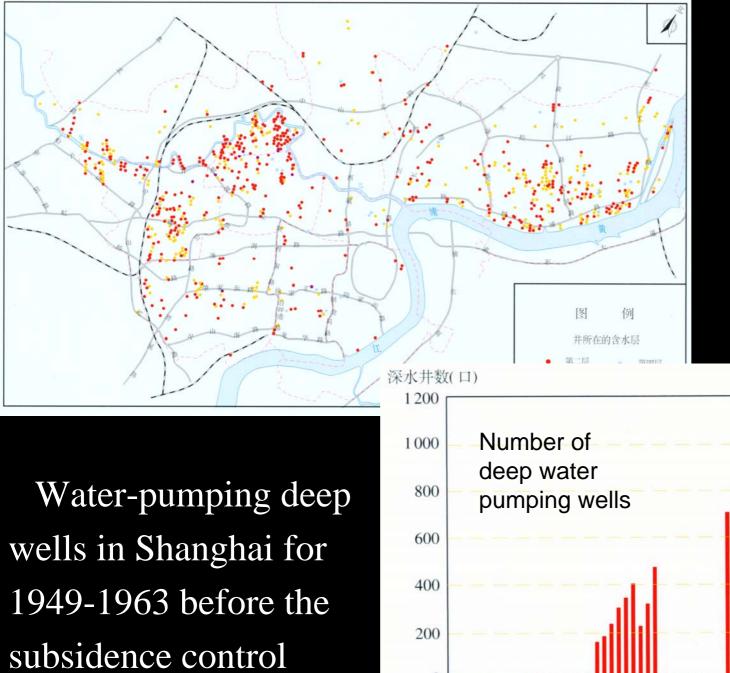
In the 1970s, high -quality mineral waters were discovered in dolomite layers in the westernpart of the city, Bei-Xin-Jing.

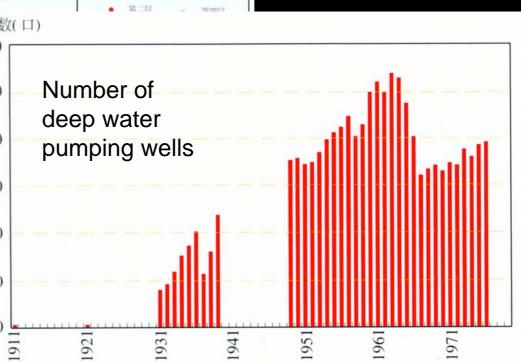
The deepest hole drilled for this mineral water reached 1001 m in depth.



After the 1949 revolution, the use of aquifers in Shanghai Significantly intensifies because of the industrial exploitation

- Land subsidence in Shanghai was initially found in the early 1920s, but became a real hazard in the 1950s when the ground water was extensively exploited for cooling in summer by the newly developed industry.
- In 1963, for example, a total of 200 million cubic meter of ground water was mined in Shanghai.
- Land subsidence reached 38 mm per year in the late 1950s and early 1960s, with the maximal value of 110 mm/year for 1957-1961.
- The total amount of subsidence measured 1.75 m from 1921 to 1965 and locally reached 2.63 m, bringing about serious consequences ranging from land cracking, building slanting to tidal flooding of the city.





- Starting from 1965, the local government has introduced a series of measurement to slow down if not prevent land subsidence in Shanghai.
- Firstly, it restricted the ground water pumping, in particularly downtown. The amount of water pumping was reduced from 2×10^8 m³ in 1965 to ~0.8 $\times 10^8$ m³ now.

- The second measure adopted was artificial recharge of ground water.
- The ground water users are requested to inject the same quantity of water into aquifers in winter as they pumped out in summer.
- This was proved to be a very effective engineering measure.

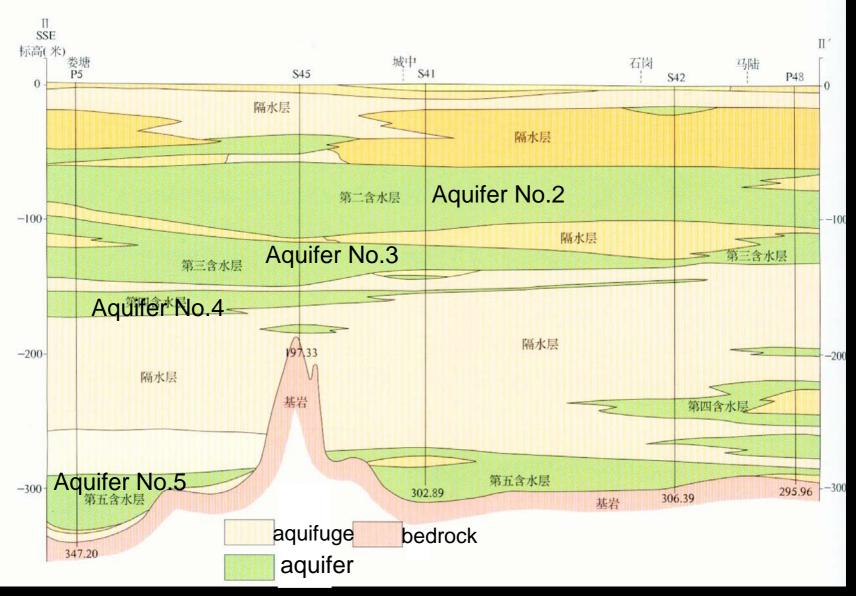




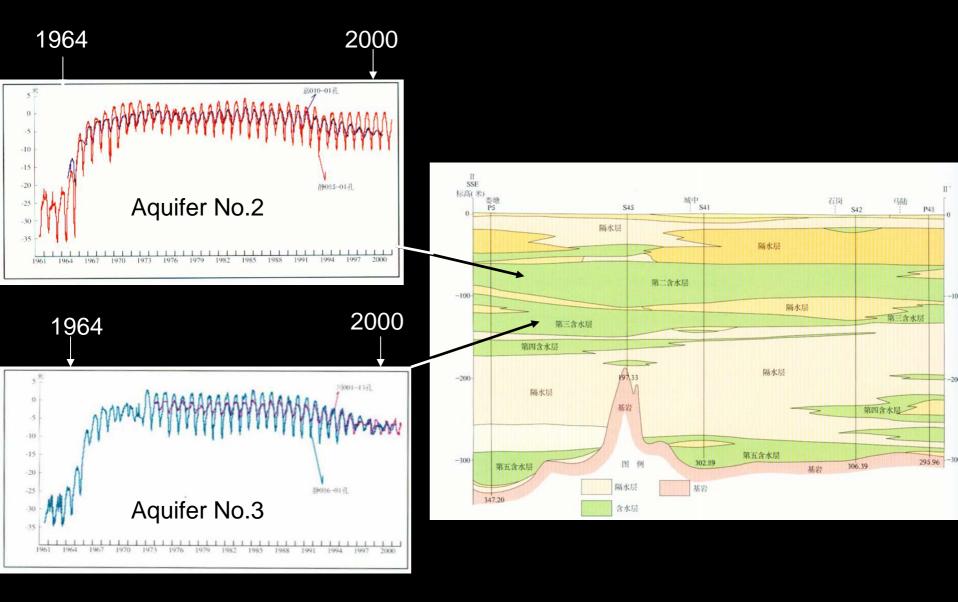
The summer users of groundwater are requested to inject the same quantity of water into the aquifer



Distribution of ground water in Shanghai

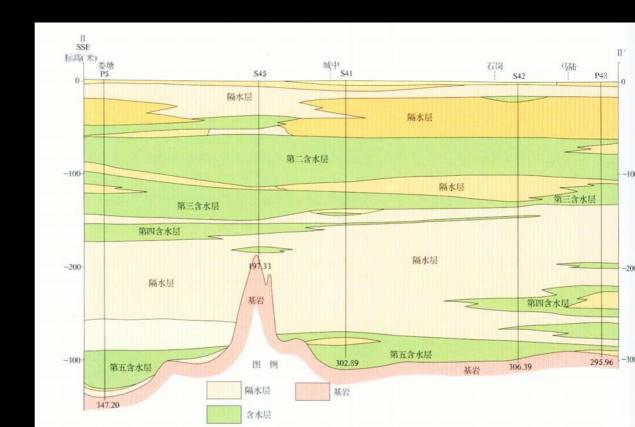


All the Aquifers No.2-5 have been mined for industrial and resident's use



Recovery of ground water levels after injection of water

 Thirdly, the industrial use of ground water was moved out from downtown to suburbs, the water mining aquifers moved from shallower to deeper ones.



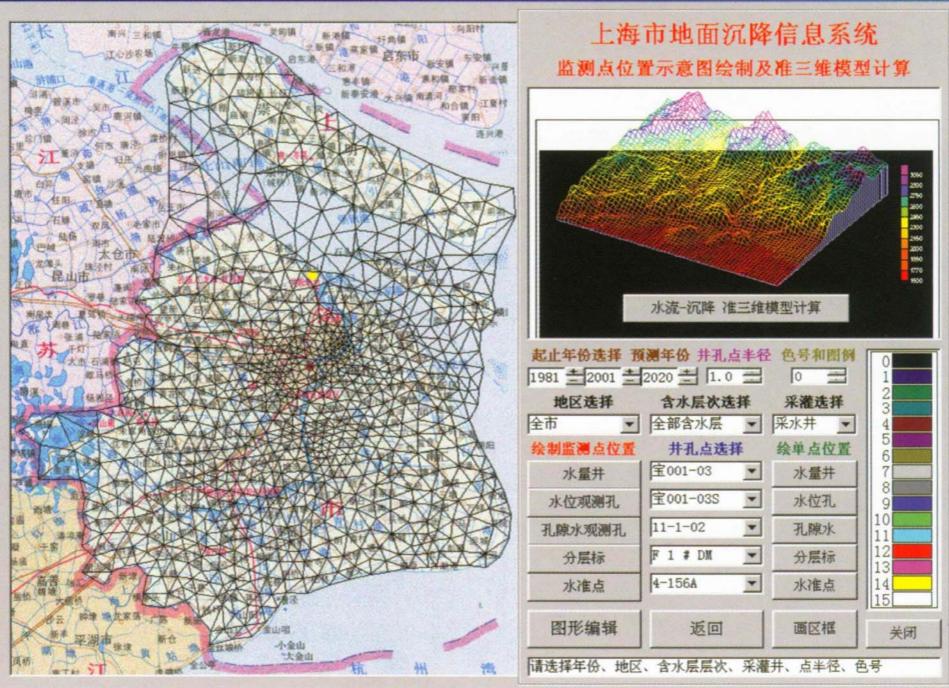
 Fourthly, a monitoring network of land subsidence and ground water levels was established, and a research centre was set up.





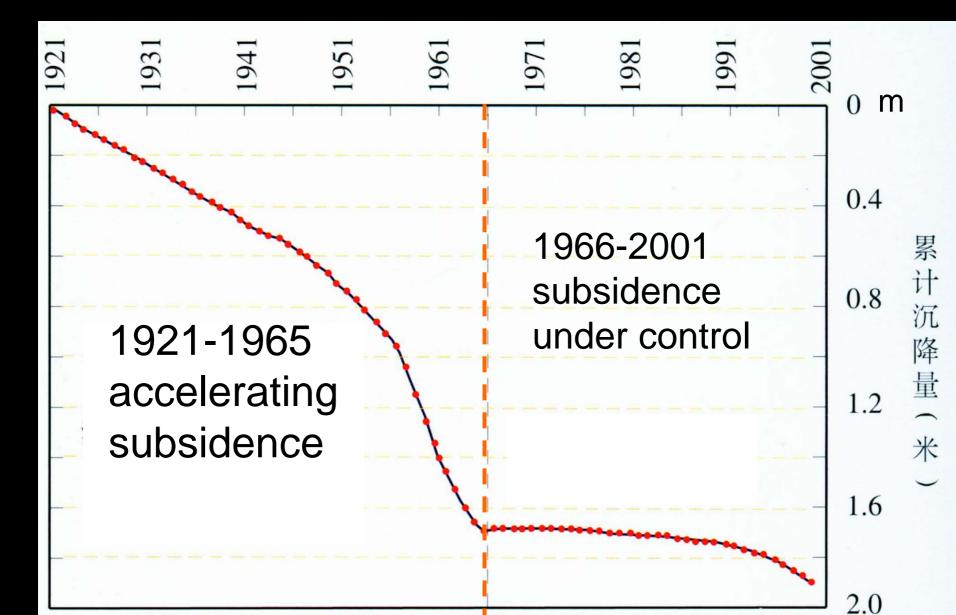


🖕 上海市地面沉降信息系统(监测点位置图) 上海市地质调查研究院 李勤奋研制



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Accumulative land subsidence in Shanghai over 80 years



Land subsidence in Shanghai

- 1921-1965: 1.76 m subsidence, or 39 mm / yr
- 1999: 12.29 mm / yr
- 2000:
- 2004:
- 2010:

- < 10 mm / yr
 - 8 mm / yr
 - < 5 mm / yr

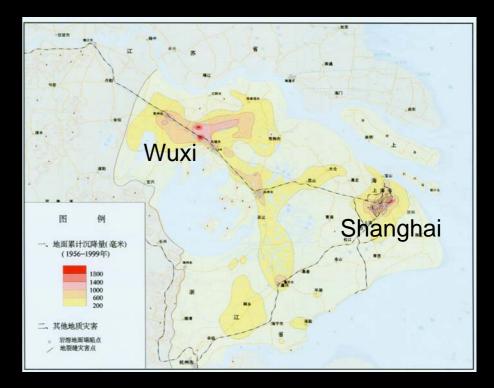
- The integrative measurements were successful, and the subsidence rate declined already in 1966.
- Since the 1990s the annual amount of subsidence has been controlled within the range of 10 mm/year.
- Given the rate of subsidence before the 1965, most of Shanghai would submerge under sea water in the year 1999 without the above efforts.

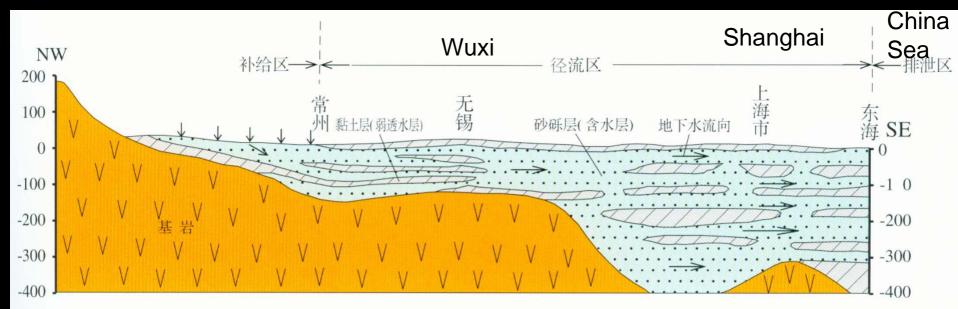
- Nevertheless, land subsidence remains a major issue for Shanghai.
- On the one hand, the massive construction of high building has become a new challenge for land stability.

>4000 buildings over16 floors in Shanghai



 Second, the economic development of the entire Yangtze Delta caused land subsidence outside Shanghai which is beyond its control.





 As each millimeter of land subsidence costs
 Shanghai as much as 20 million US Dollar, it is too expensive for the city to ignore the challenge.









Shanghai Land Subsidence Monitoring Show

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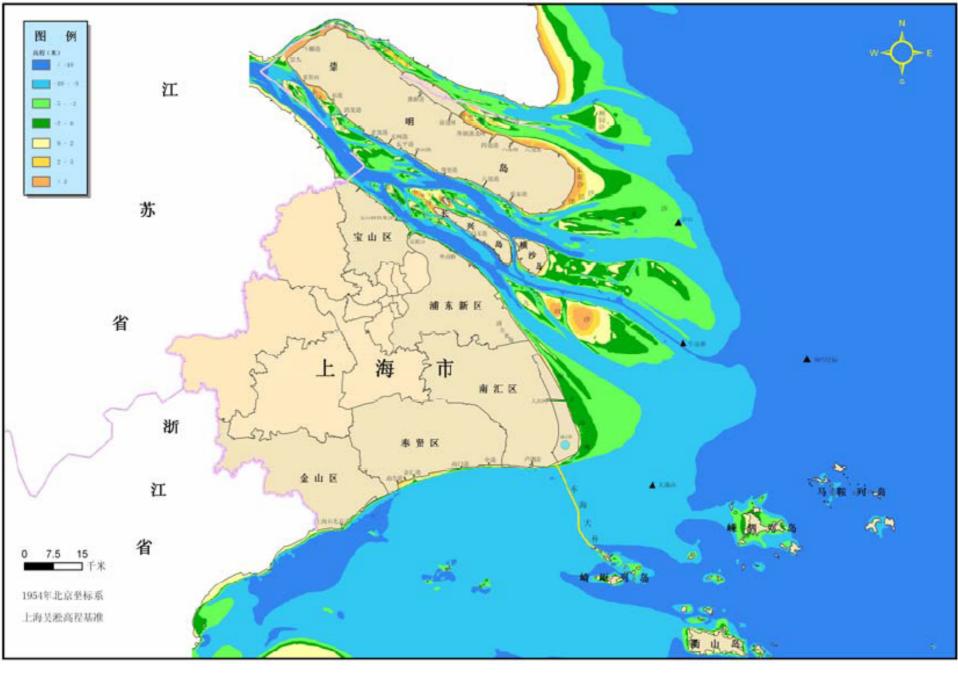




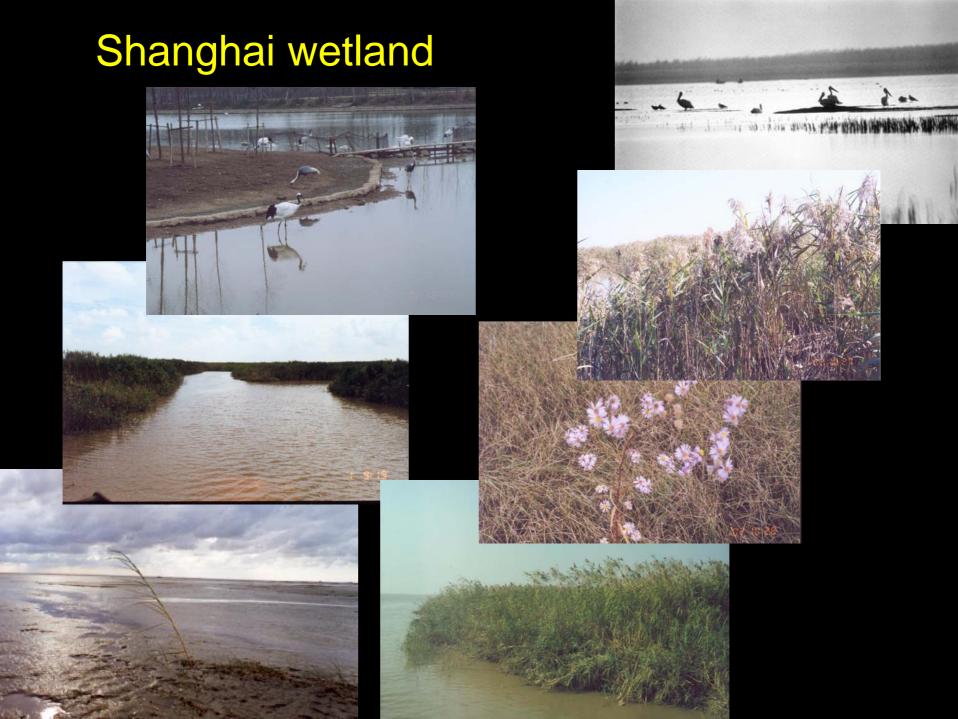
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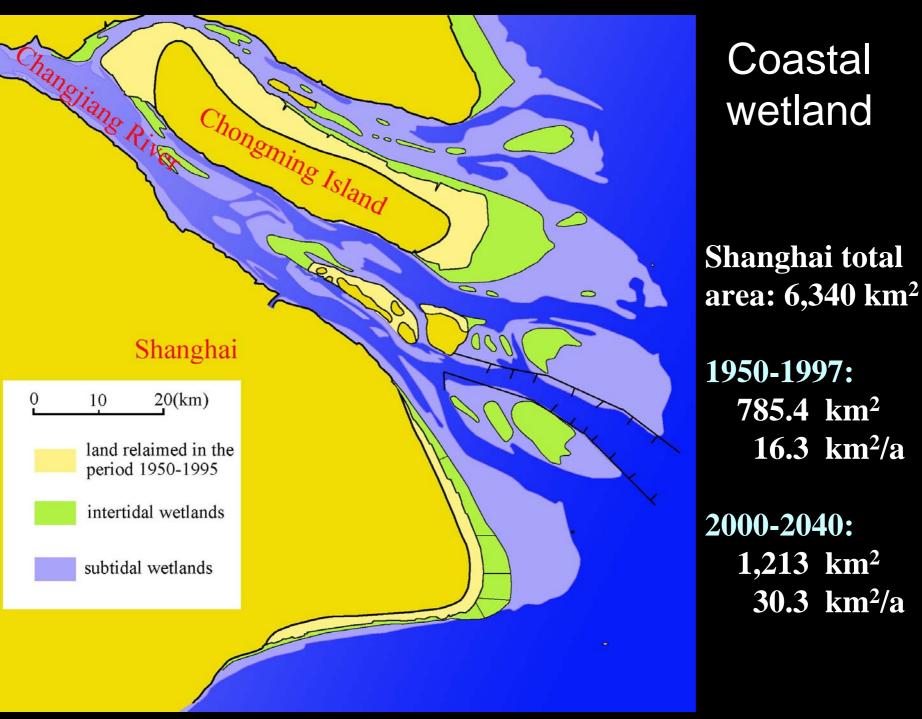
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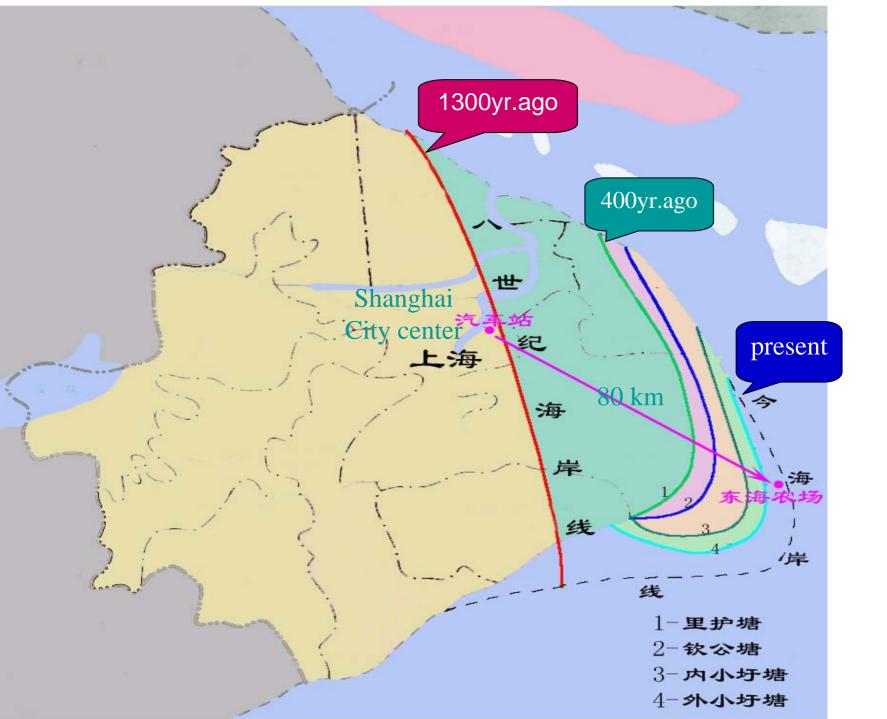


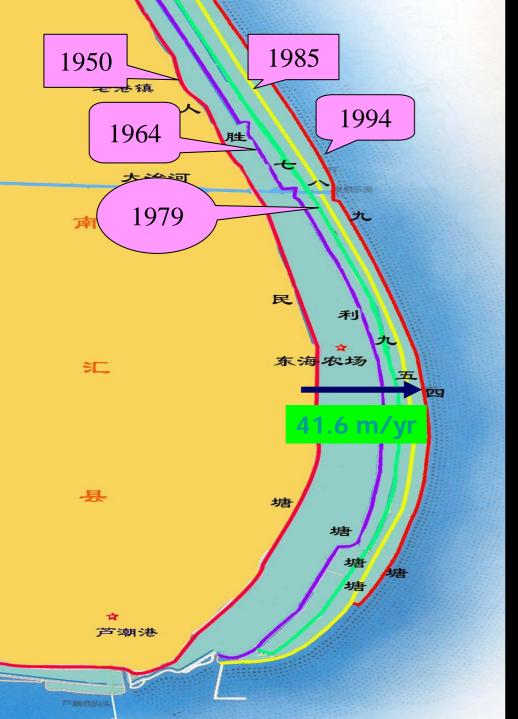


Shanghai foreshore resources





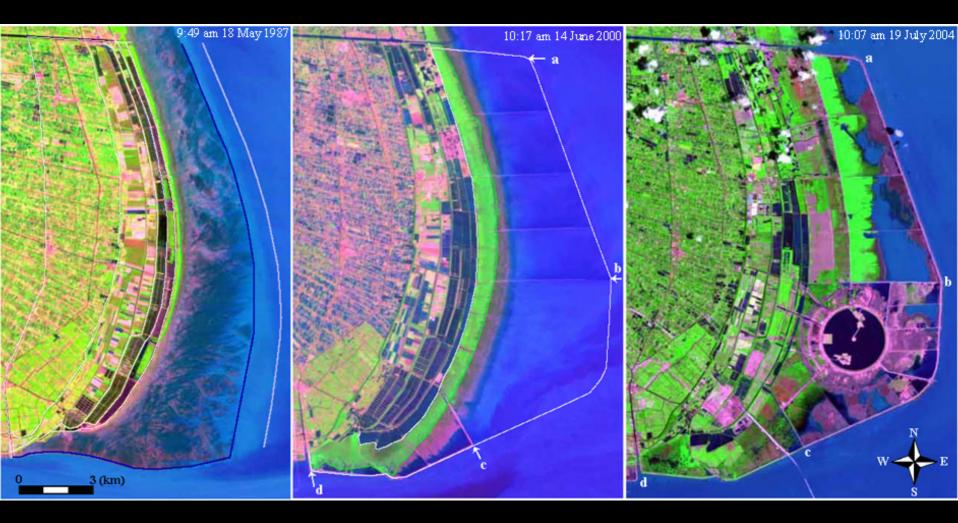


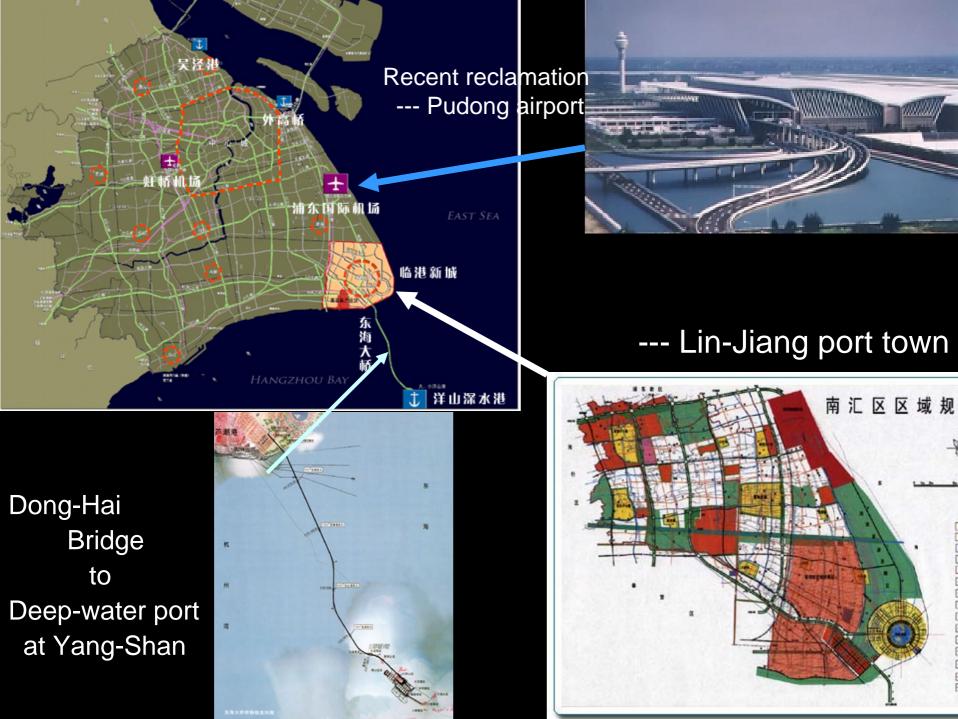


reclamation

in the last half of the 20th century

Present Land reclamation project





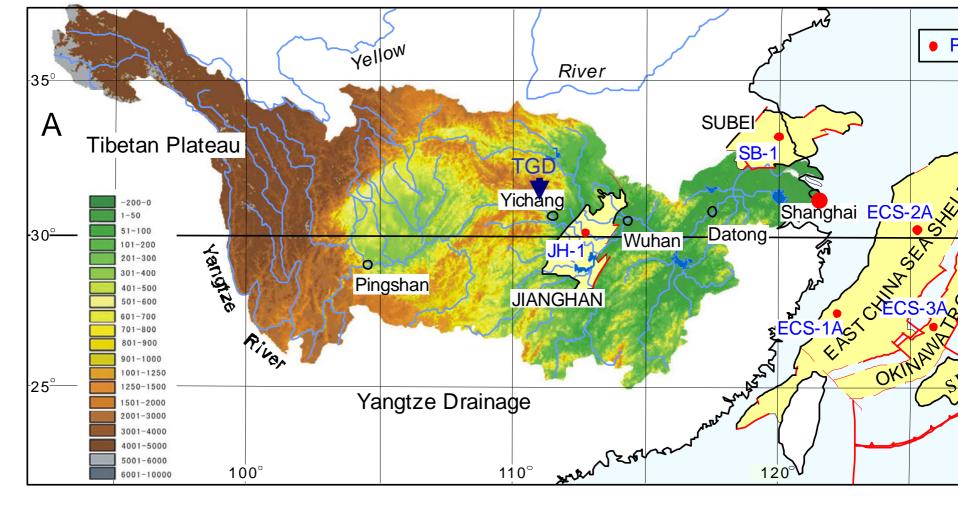
Dong-Hai Bridge to Deep-water port at Yang-Shan

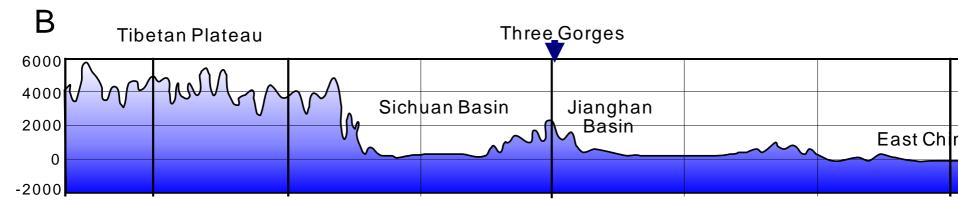
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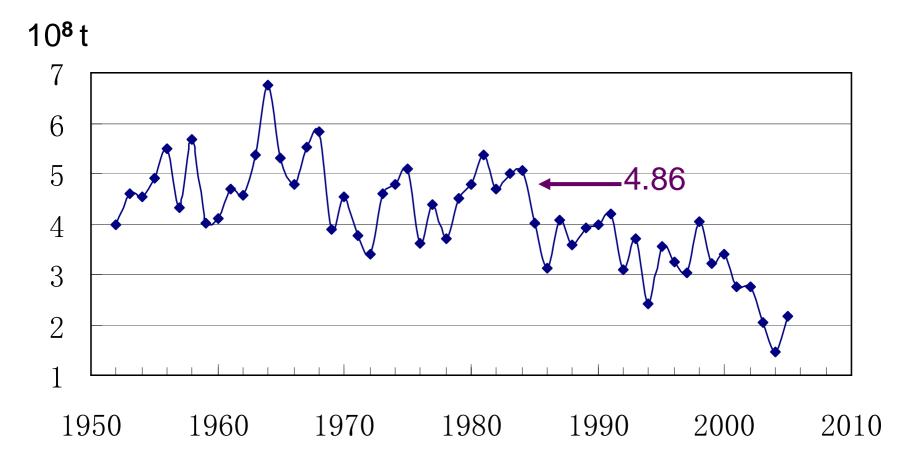
A long-term average showed that the Changjiang River's annually discharges: -- 9250 x10⁸ m³ of water -- 4.86 x 10⁸ m³ of silt to the sea

Xue, 1995

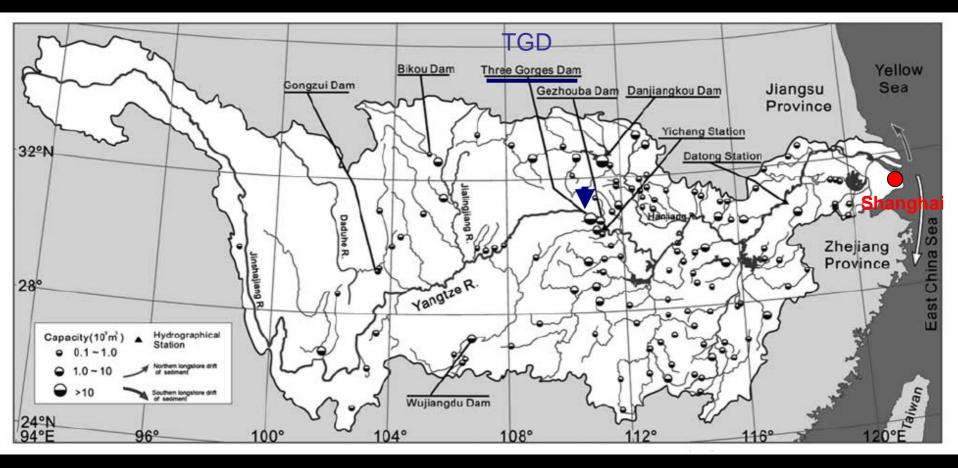




Sediment discharge (10^8 ton)



Over the last half century sediment discharge of Yantze R. decreased significantly mainly due to dam construction



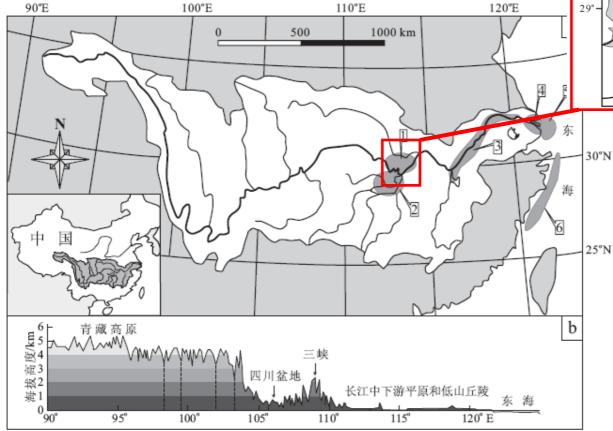
- \sim 50,000 dams since 1950
- total storage capacity of reservoirs $\,{\sim}200 {
 m x10}$ 9 m 3 ,

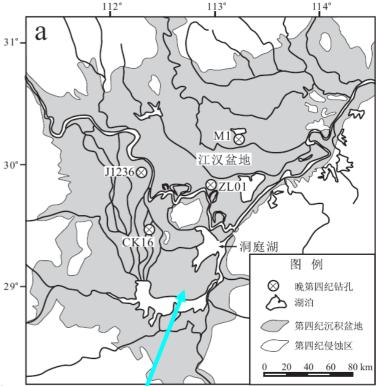
or 22% of Yangtze annual runoff

sediment accumulation in reservoir: >850x10 ⁶ t/yr in 2003

Yang et al., 2005

Lake basins in the middle and lower reached have been deposition centres of Yangtze. During the past 7,000 years, a total of 13×10^{11} tonne sediments have accumulated in the middel and lower reaches, compared to 9.5 x 10¹¹ tonne in submarine delta and continental shelf.

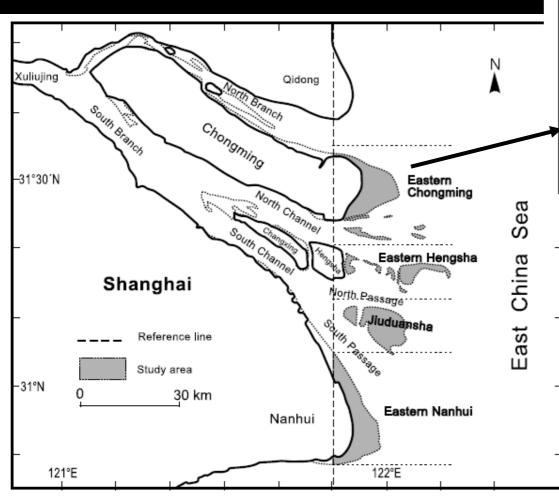


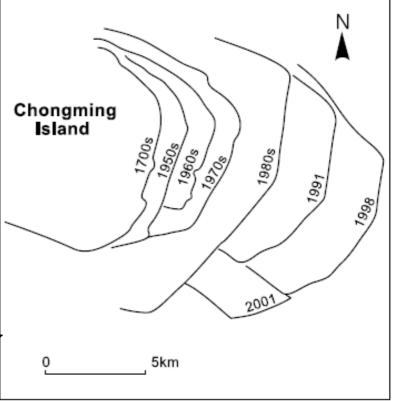


Dongting Lake area of the Jianghan Basin is the largest receives deposition center and receives 1 x 10⁸ tonne sediment per year.

Wang et sl., MS

The delta coastline has progradated at 10-20m/yr, and intertidal wetland has grown at ~5 km².yr.





The progradation rate has accelerated in recent centuries Probably because of deforestation in the catchment area.

Yang et al., 2005

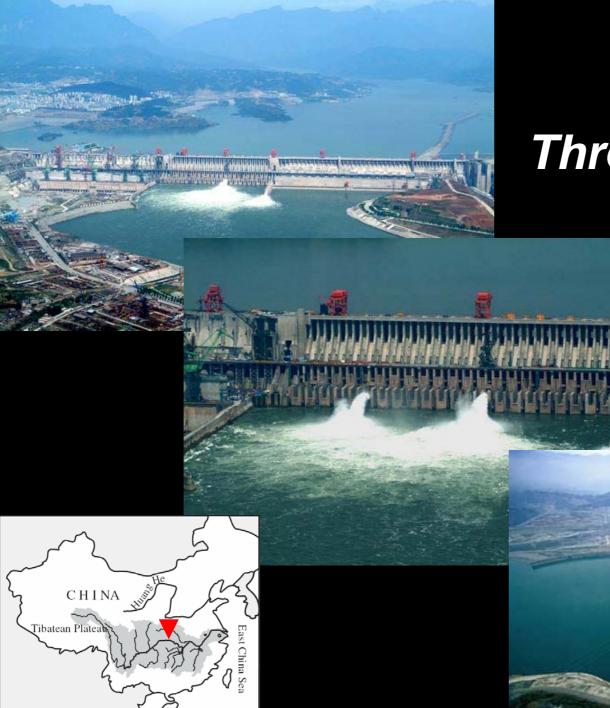
- Many deltas worldwide are retreating due to decreases in sediment supply from dammed rivers. Almost no net annual sediment load is delivered to the Nile delta due to the Aswan High Dam and others.
- Shanghai is sitting on a progradating delta. ~2/3 of the Shanghai land area was formed in this way during the past 2000 years, with 1/5 of it obtained in the last 50 years. Shanghai plans to further reclaim 767 km² of intertidal wetlands.
- Because of construction of 50,000 dams, the sediment accumulation rate in reservoirs along Yangtze has increased from ~0 in 1950 to >850 x 10⁶ t/yr in 2003.The Three Gorges Dam and other new dams will cause further decrease of sediment discharge rate of Yangtze.



Three Gorge Dam construction:

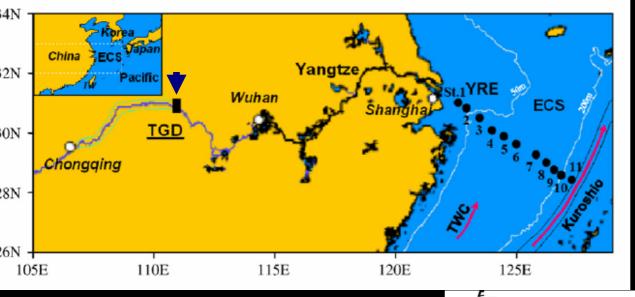
How much will be the impact on sediment supply to the delta?

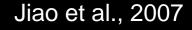




Three Gorge Dam

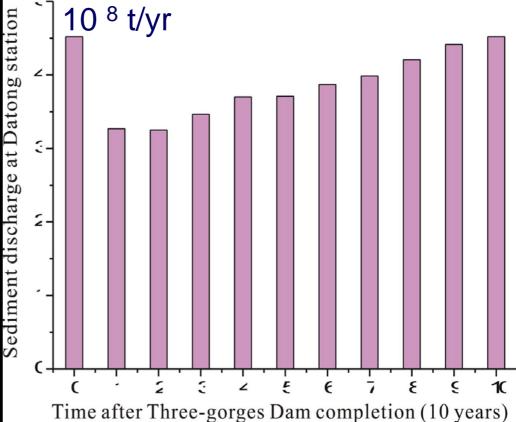




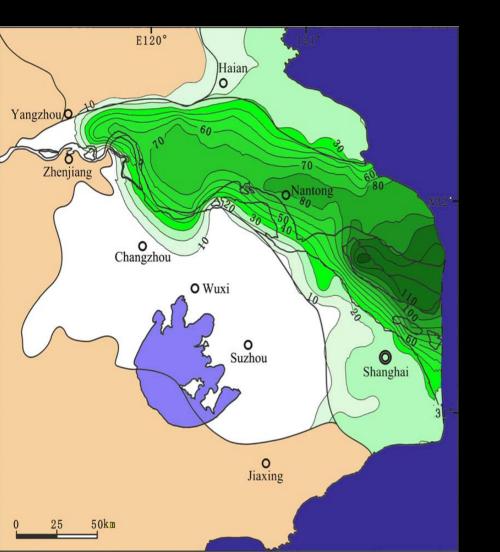


Sediment flux into the sea

Present: 460×10^{6} tons Post-glacial: 236×10^{6} tons Since 7000 yr B.P. 228×10^{6} tons



The critical sediment discharge (CSD) -- turning the delta from construction into destruction

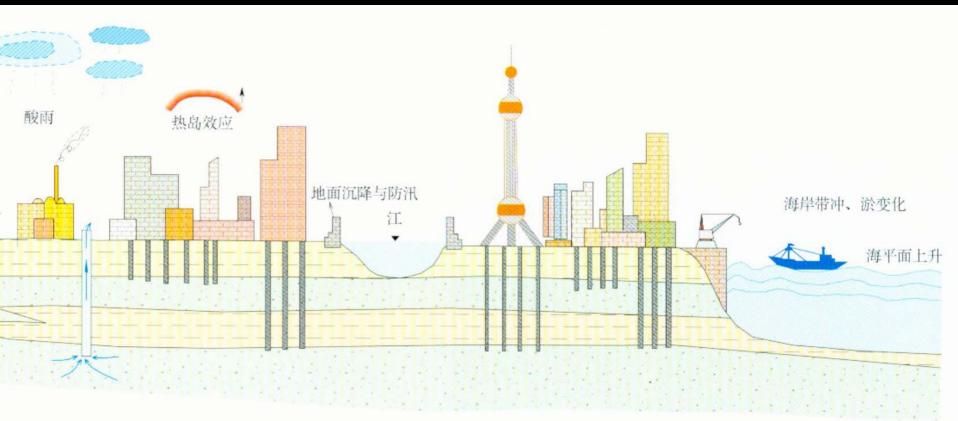


Li et al. (2003) thought that CSD should be lower but very close to the Holocene mean sediment discharge of 228-244 ×10⁶ t/a

Water/Land Conflict in Shanghai

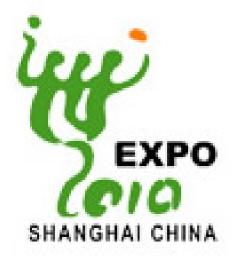
After construction of dams: * The Yangtze Delta remains in its constructive mode unless the sea level rises fast * The Yangtze Delta will enter into a destruction phase

Water / land conflict remains one of the major concerns of Shanghai for its sustainable development



Urban geology in Shanghai





城市,让生活更美好 Better City, Better Life



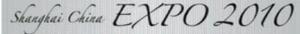


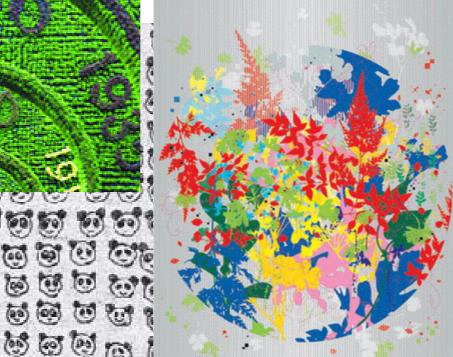
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As a Dragon Head, Shanghai has been "drifting along" on the water surface.

Within the last 10⁴ of years, the Shanghai area has experienced repeated emergence / submergence cycles, and since the last decades it has still been confronted with the conflict between water and land.



Shanghai reclaims land from the sea, but takes a risk of losing land by using ground water, aside from the enhanced coastal erosion caused by the upstream damming. Therefore, the story of Dragon Head is continuing...