

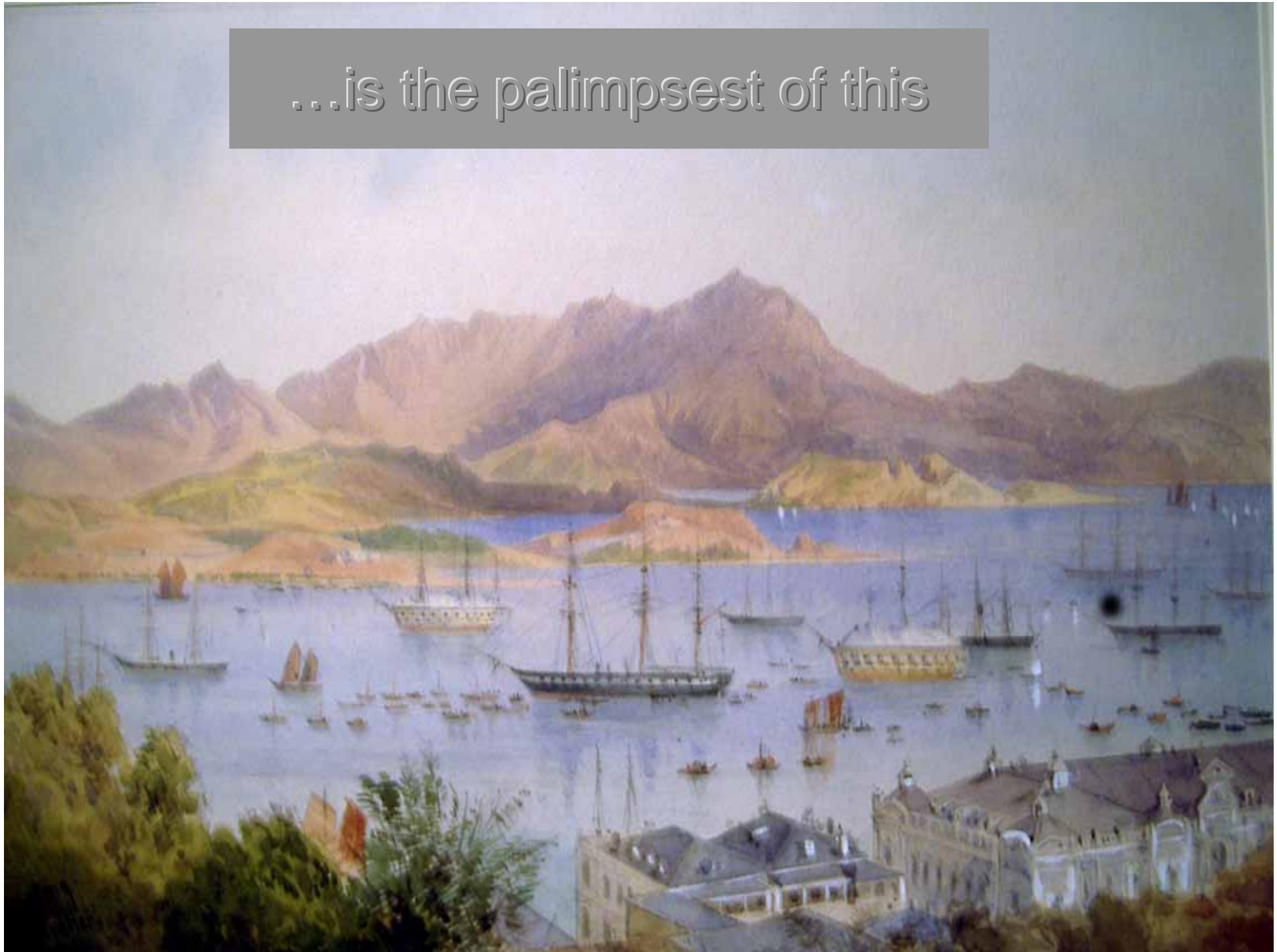
HONGKONG HARBOUR

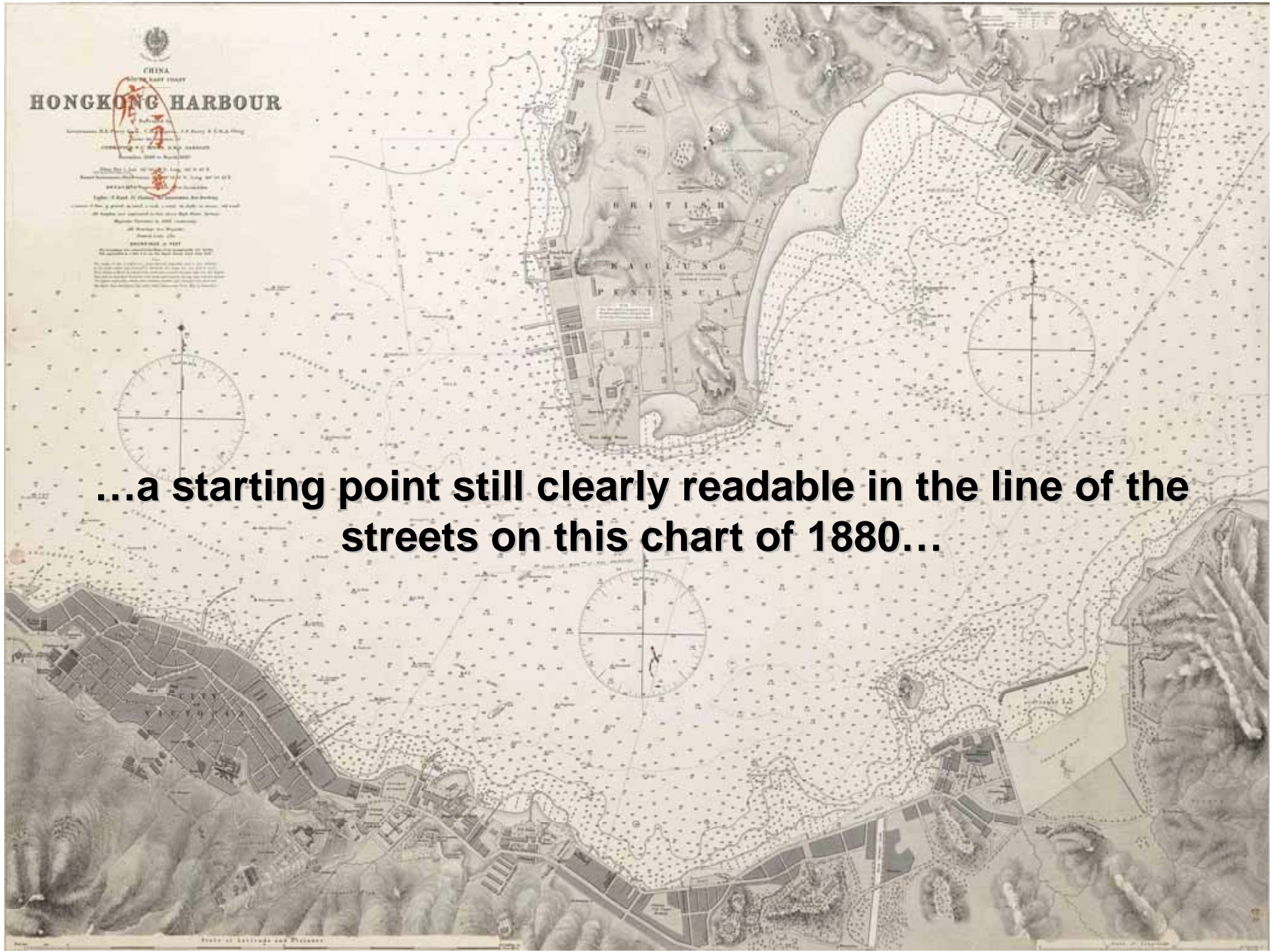
WATERFRONTS AS HISTORY



Hidden in this...

...is the palimpsest of this

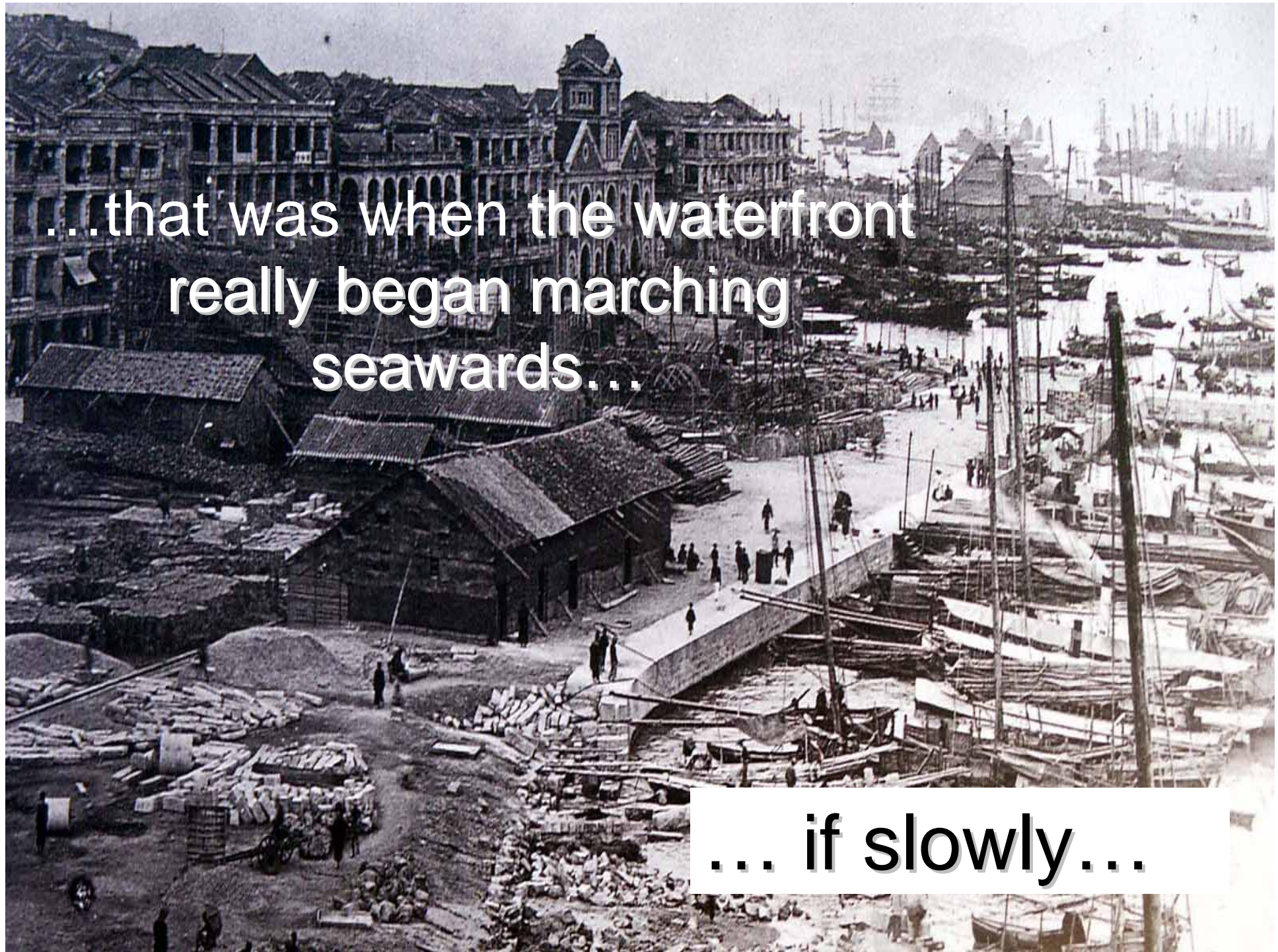




...a starting point still clearly readable in the line of the streets on this chart of 1880...

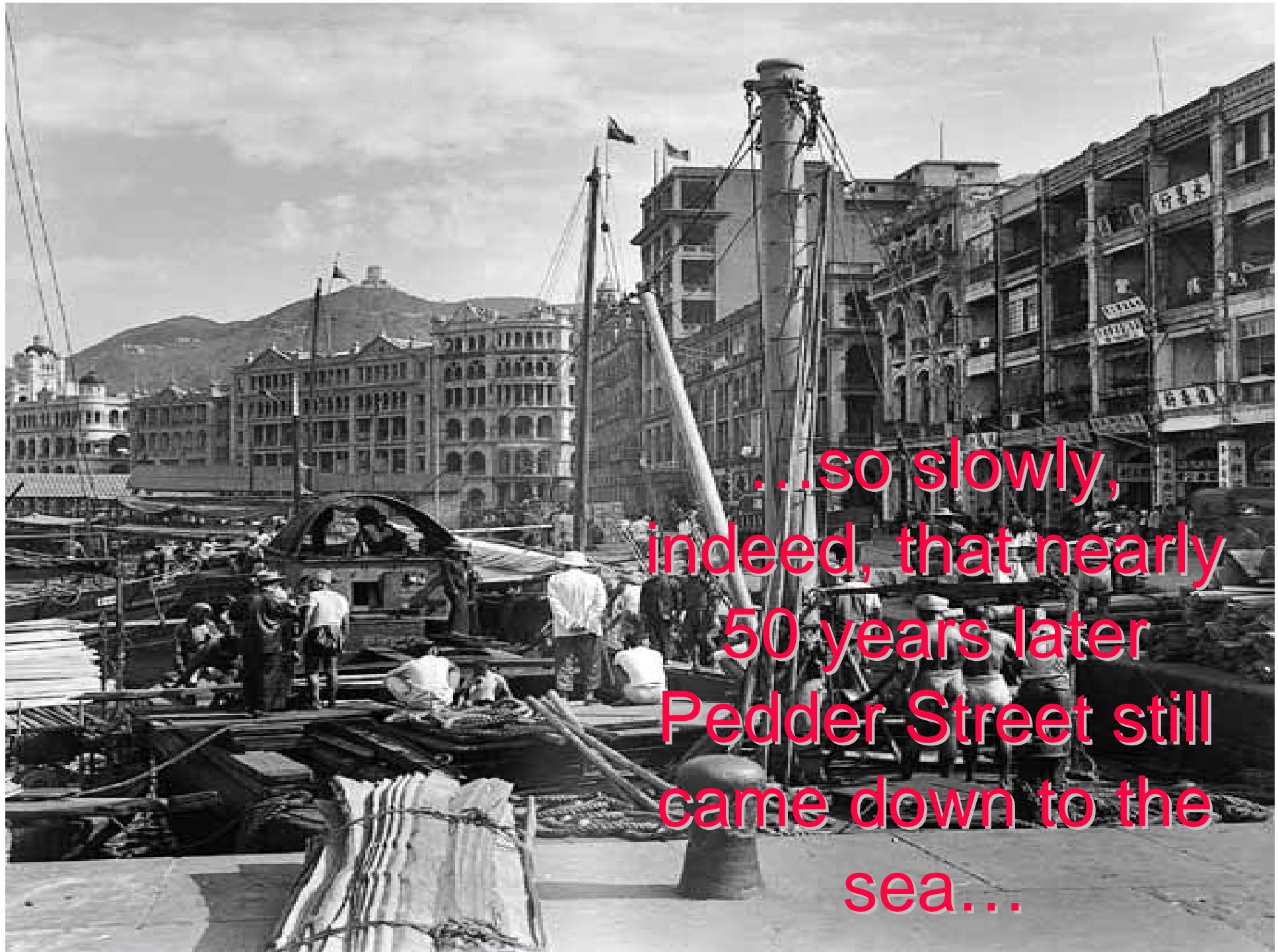
The process of a more wholesale erasure began ten years later with the great Praya & Royal Navy dockyard reclamation of 1887-1893...





...that was when the waterfront
really began marching
seawards...

... if slowly...

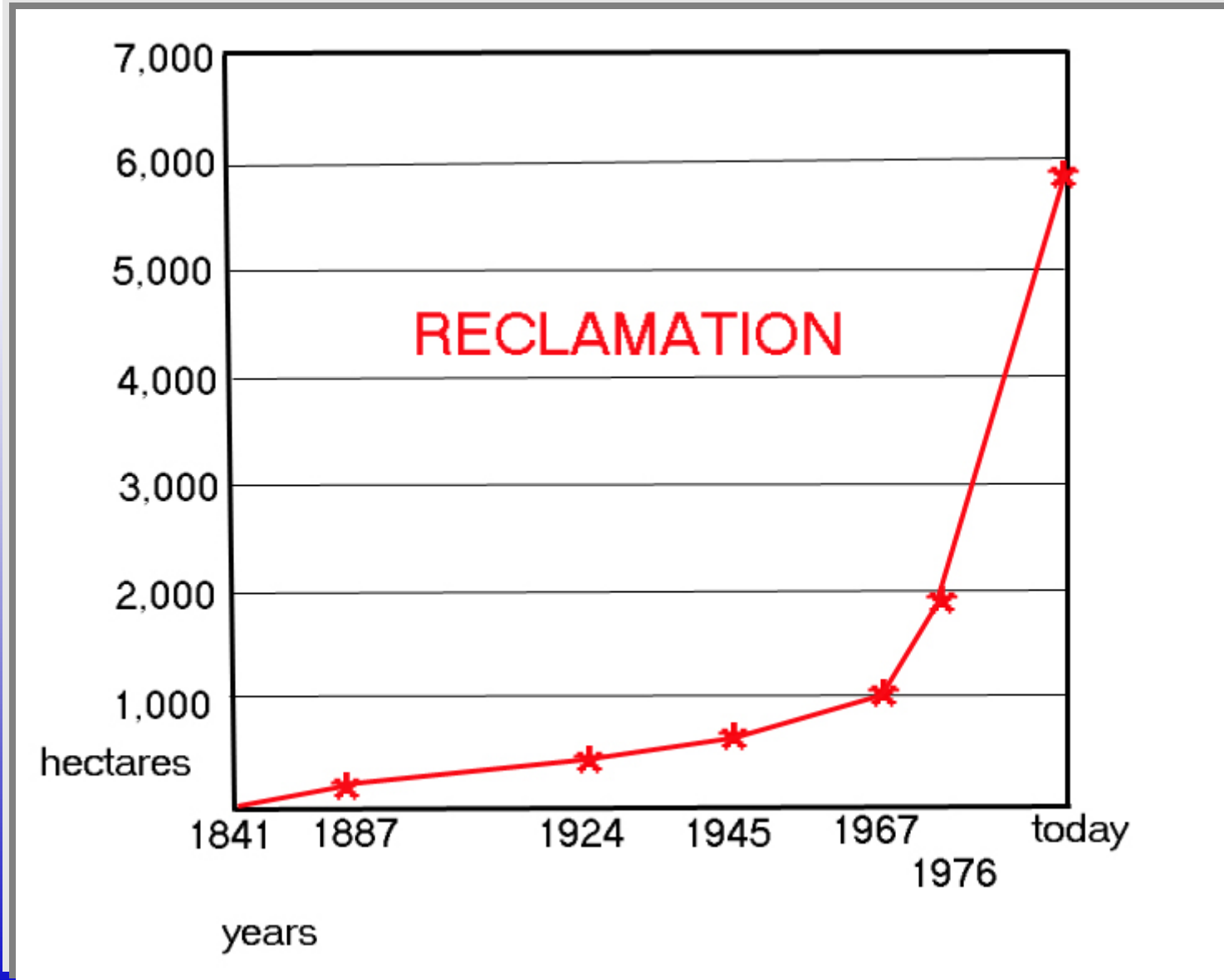


...so slowly,
indeed, that nearly
50 years later
Pedder Street still
came down to the
sea....

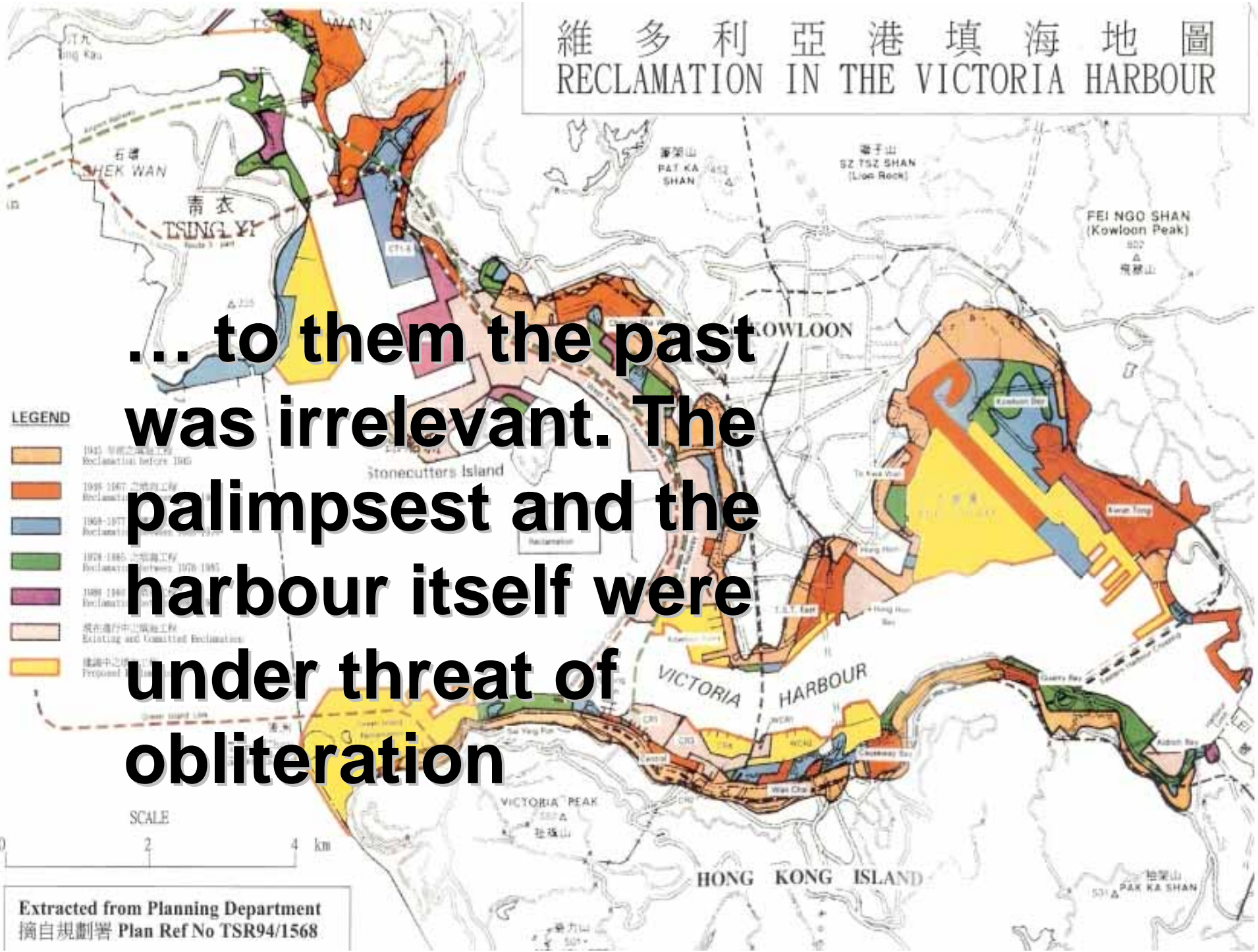
**...and Hong Kong's earliest
shorelines could still be
made out...**



...that was until, in 1967, Hong Kong's road transport lobby, property developers and government planners really got down to work...



維多利亞港填海地圖
RECLAMATION IN THE VICTORIA HARBOUR



... to them the past was irrelevant. The palimpsest and the harbour itself were under threat of obliteration



HONGKONG HARBOUR

That's why, instead
of 2.2km, as in
1880...

...in 2007 the Star Ferry will go
0.8km, some of the earliest
shoreline, lost up to 1km from the
sea, is barely discernible and most
of today's waterfront is inaccessible

An aerial photograph of Sydney Harbour, Australia, showing the city's dense urban development and the intricate waterways of the harbour. The water is a deep blue-green, and the surrounding land is covered in buildings and greenery. The text is overlaid in red with a white outline.

**This is one of the most beautiful harbours
in the world.**

**The Sydney Harbour Foreshore
Authority ensures it stays that way.**

An aerial photograph of a harbour area, likely in Hong Kong, showing a dark, winding waterway. A red dashed line is overlaid on the image, tracing a path along the waterway and extending into the surrounding urban landscape. The text is overlaid on a grey rectangular background in the upper left corner.

Here's the same harbour if the Hong Kong Government had been responsible...if that's the word.

The dashed lines show the 2007-2009 harbour development plan for an east-west thruway and the new state and city government offices

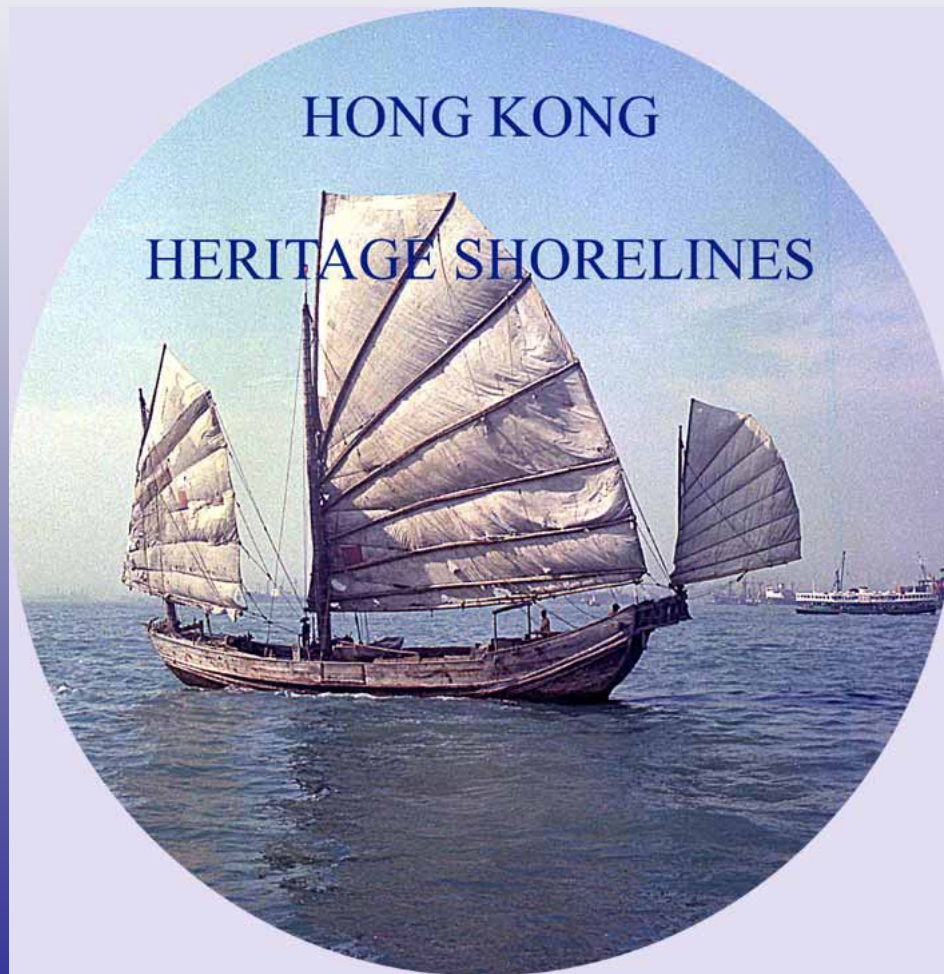


RESCUE THE PRESENT WITH THE PAST

- Use the older waterfronts and the stories they can tell to assert the value of today's harbour

Create Heritage Shorelines

- Identify significant early shorelines with plaques every 200m



In North Point and Causeway Bay for example

To the Noonday Gun

Ah King Boatyard – now lost behind an expressway

Tin Hau Temple – once by the sea

Yacht St – once a boatyard

To the 19th century North Point Battery

The 1841 shoreline



Create Heritage Shoreline Trails

- Mark narrative points for audio- or print guides.
- Use well designed panels with brief, informative text.

No. 1 TIN HAU TEMPLE

This is one of the oldest temples in Hong Kong, dating from the 18th century.

It was built here, close to the sea, by the Hakka Tai family, members of which had found a statue of Tin Hau in the rocks on the shore nearby and who still manage the temple.

Tin Hau, the Empress of Heaven, is the patron deity of Hong Kong's boat people whose money paid for the temple to be built



- Link old shoreline through newer to today's waterfront

Happily, at grass roots level people do care...



This is what Wanchai District Council is hoping to do to enhance its street signs...

Jaffe Road
348-314 謝斐道 274-250

Gloucester Road
144-159 告士打道 160-189



All that's needed is a system of numbers that link one street sign to another to create a guided tour from old waterfront to new... Easy enough...or would be

... if government took enough interest to come up with the few thousand dollars needed...

...rather than spending HK\$5 billion desecrating the waterfront with luxury offices for the few.

A photograph of a harbor at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a mountain range. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several tall buildings are visible against the bright sky. The water in the harbor is dark with some ripples.

Use Hong Kong's historic waterfronts to connect past to present.

Let one of the most beautiful harbours in the world tell its story.