

THE ATLANTIS OF JAVA

Living Below the Sea at the Edge of Jakarta.

An expedition into the fastest sinking city on Earth.

WELCOME TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD.



You are standing on the front lines. This isn't a history tour; it is a look at survival. While the world worries about rising sea levels, Jakarta faces a more immediate threat: the land itself is collapsing. In some areas, the ground drops by a quarter of a meter annually.

THE EXPEDITION ROUTE

1. Museum Bahari:
The Foundation
2. The Leaning Tower:
The Evidence
3. Sunda Kelapa:
The Reversal
4. Masjid Waladuna:
The Ghost
5. The Great Seawall:
The Front Line

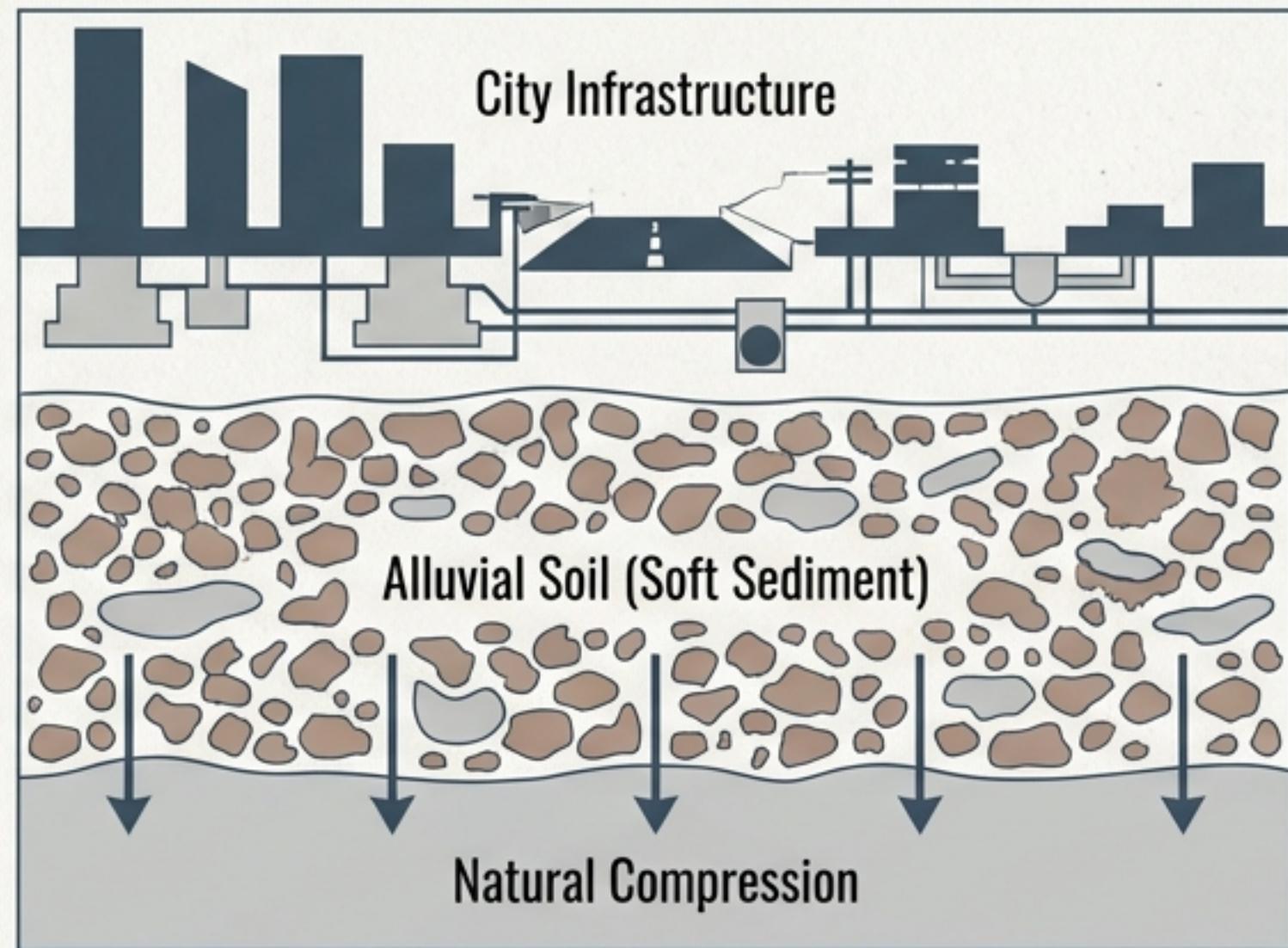


BUILT ON A SPONGE



Look at the **floor** of these old VOC warehouses. The ground is uneven. The building is slowly being swallowed by the mud.

The Swamp Foundation



Jakarta sits on **alluvial soil**—soft sediment deposited by rivers. Unlike bedrock, alluvial soil compresses naturally over time. It acts like a sponge, settling under the weight of the city.



THE LEANING TOWER OF JAKARTA



Look at the tower. It leans. This isn't an architectural choice; it's a symptom.

Key Insight

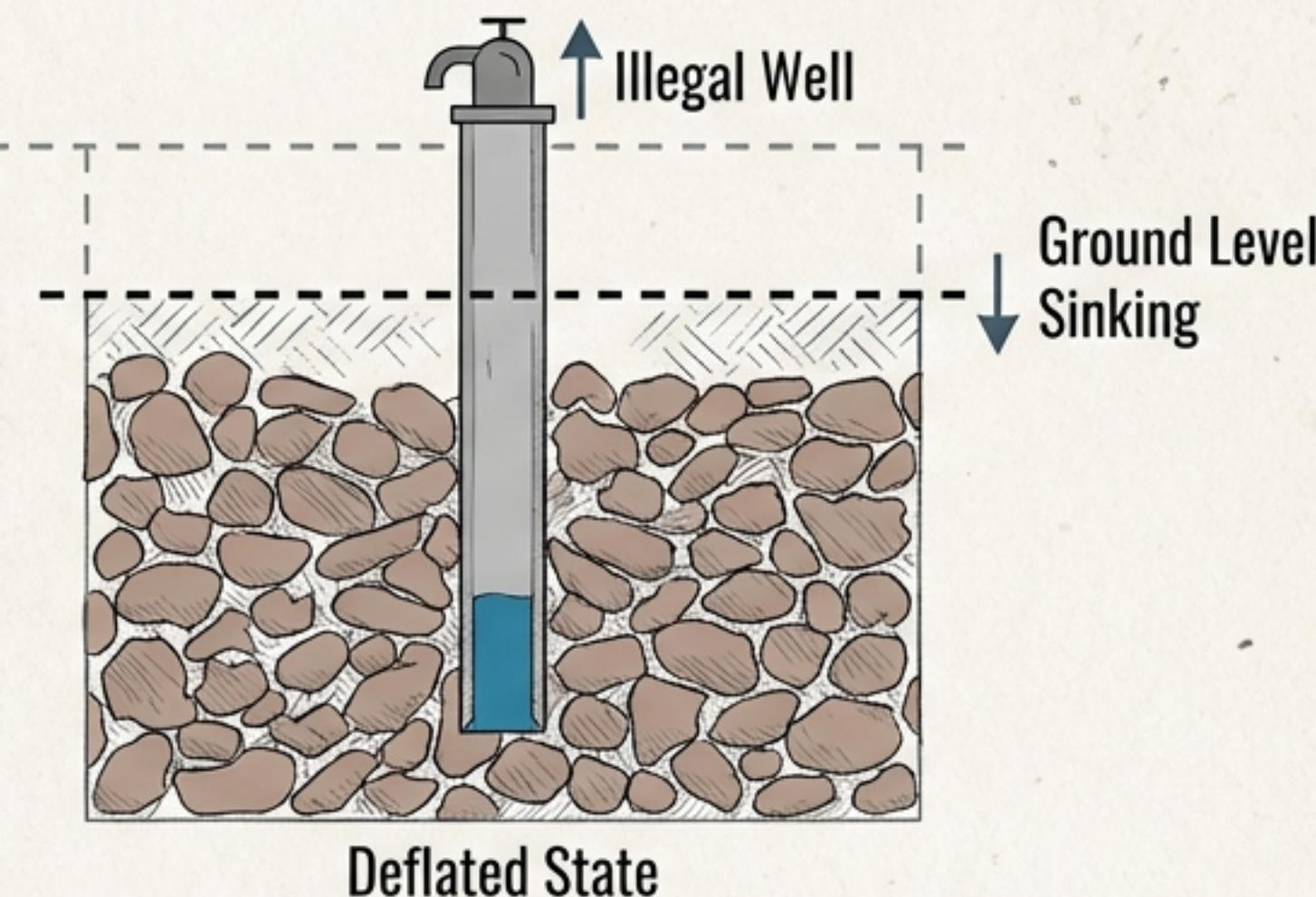
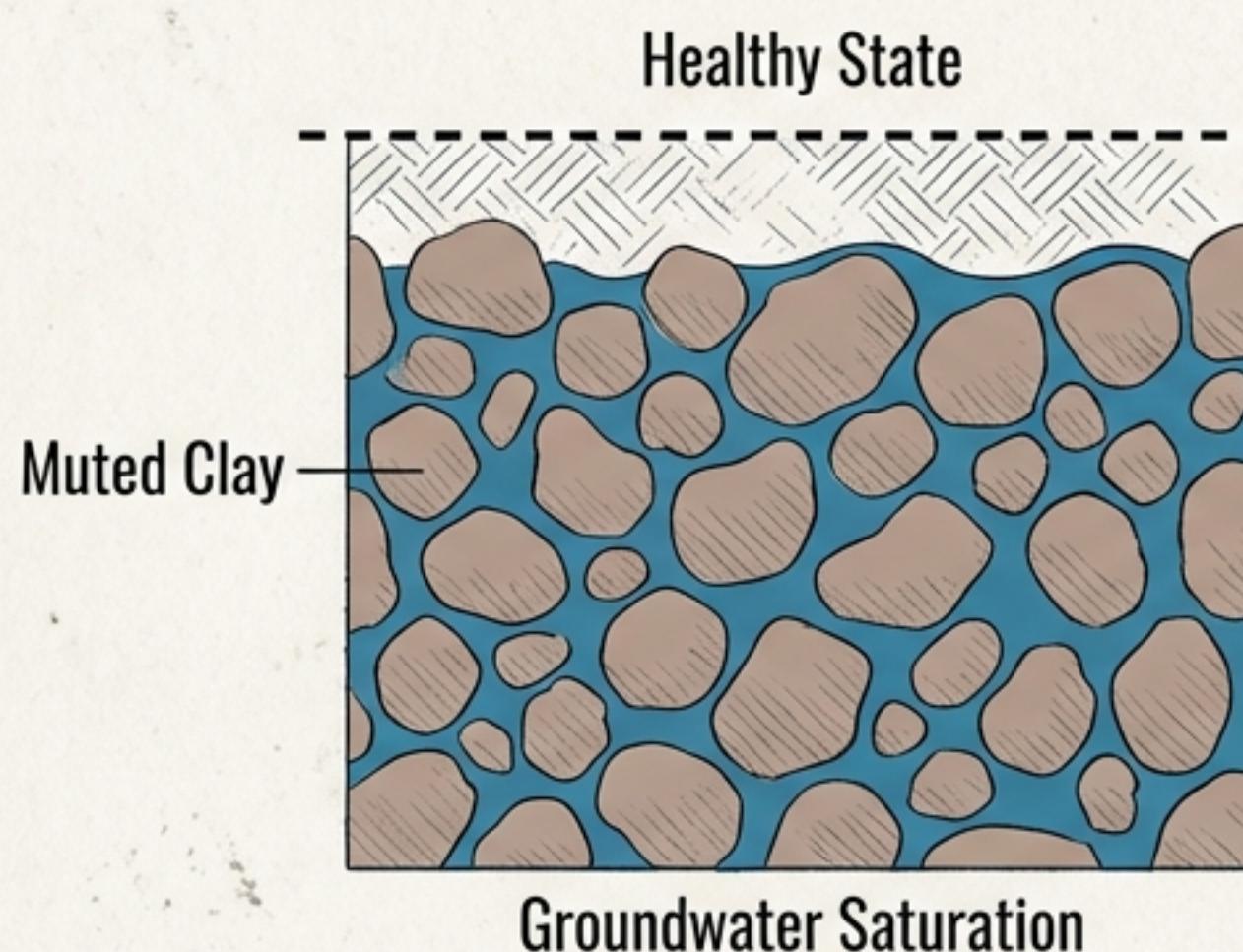
Uneven Soil Compression.
As the ground shifts and sinks at different rates, rigid structures lose their verticality.



Editorial Documentary

DRINKING THE CITY TO DEATH

The Empty Water Bottle Effect



The city isn't just sinking naturally; human activity is accelerating it. Millions of illegal wells extract groundwater for daily use. When the water is removed, the soil deflates like an empty plastic bottle crushed by a hand.



THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER



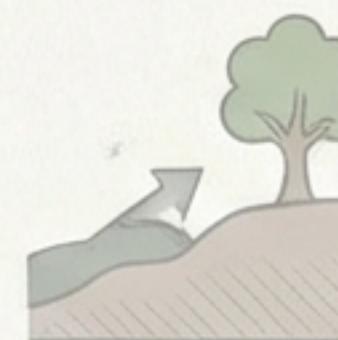
Walk among the schooners.
This is the mouth of the Ciliwung River.

For centuries, the Ciliwung brought volcanic silt down from the mountains. This sediment deposition extended the coastline outward, building new land naturally.



THE PROCESS REVERSED

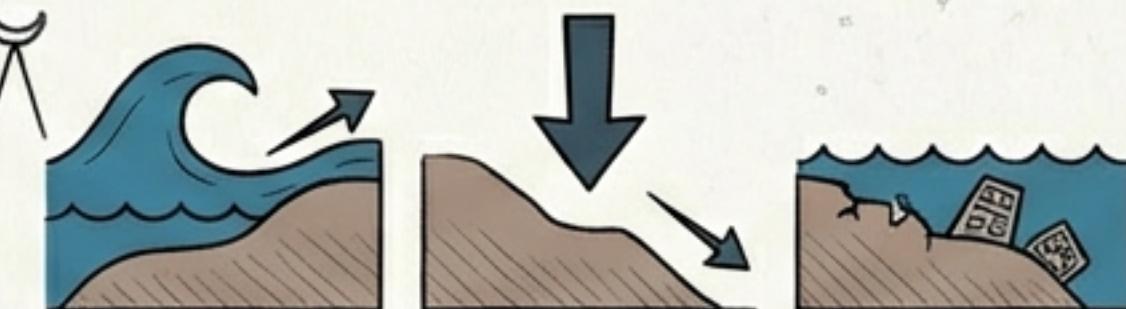
THE PAST



Sediment > Erosion
(Land Grows)



THE PRESENT



Sediment < Rising Sea + Sinking Land
(Sea Reclaims)

Today, the sediment flow is no longer enough to counter the rate of sinking. The process has reversed. The sea is coming back to reclaim the alluvial plain.

STOP 4:
MASJID WALADUNA

A TOMBSTONE FOR THE LAND



Look out into the water. The mosque you see isn't an ancient ruin from a lost century.

It was an active neighborhood mosque in the early 2000s.

This structure is a timeline marker. It demonstrates the terrifying velocity of Jakarta's geographical change—from bustling neighborhood to open ocean in less than 20 years.

STOP 5:
THE GREAT SEAWALL

THE ULTIMATE BATTLE

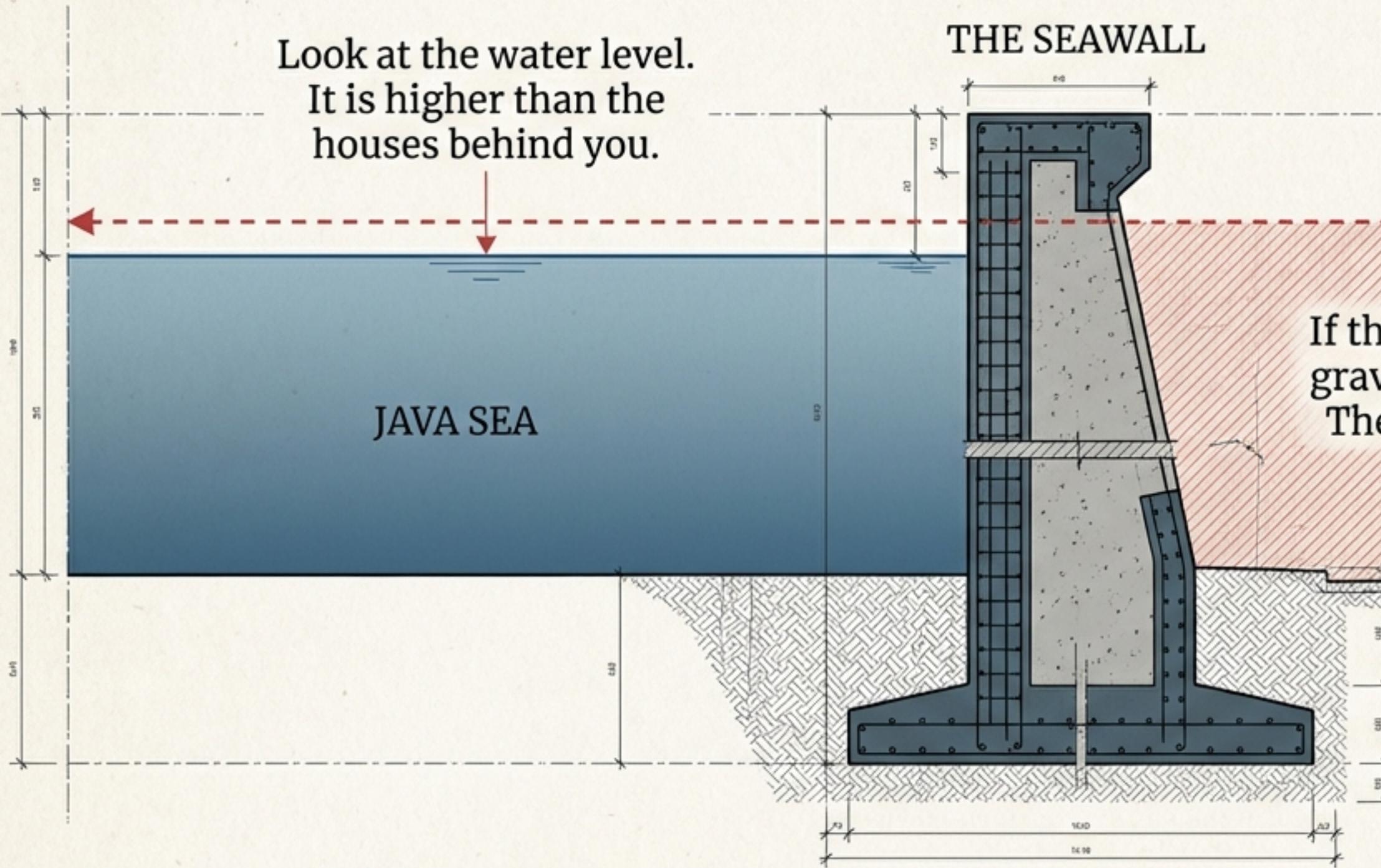


Climb the concrete dyke. This is the only thing preventing North Jakarta from becoming the Pacific Ocean.

This wall represents the standoff between Dutch engineering expertise and the chaotic reality of tropical geology.

“THE PHYSICS OF SURVIVAL”

Look at the water level.
It is higher than the
houses behind you.



If this wall breaks,
gravity takes over.
The city drowns.



DUTCH ENGINEERING VS. TROPICAL GEOLOGY

From the sinking warehouses to the ghost mosque, the evidence is undeniable. Jakarta is fighting a two-front war: against the rising ocean from above, and the collapsing soil from below.

The Atlantis comparison is not a myth—it is a potential future. Enjoy the view while it lasts.

SOURCES

Deck narrative and data based on
“The Atlantis of Java: Living Below the
Sea.” in Muted Clay Merriweather font

