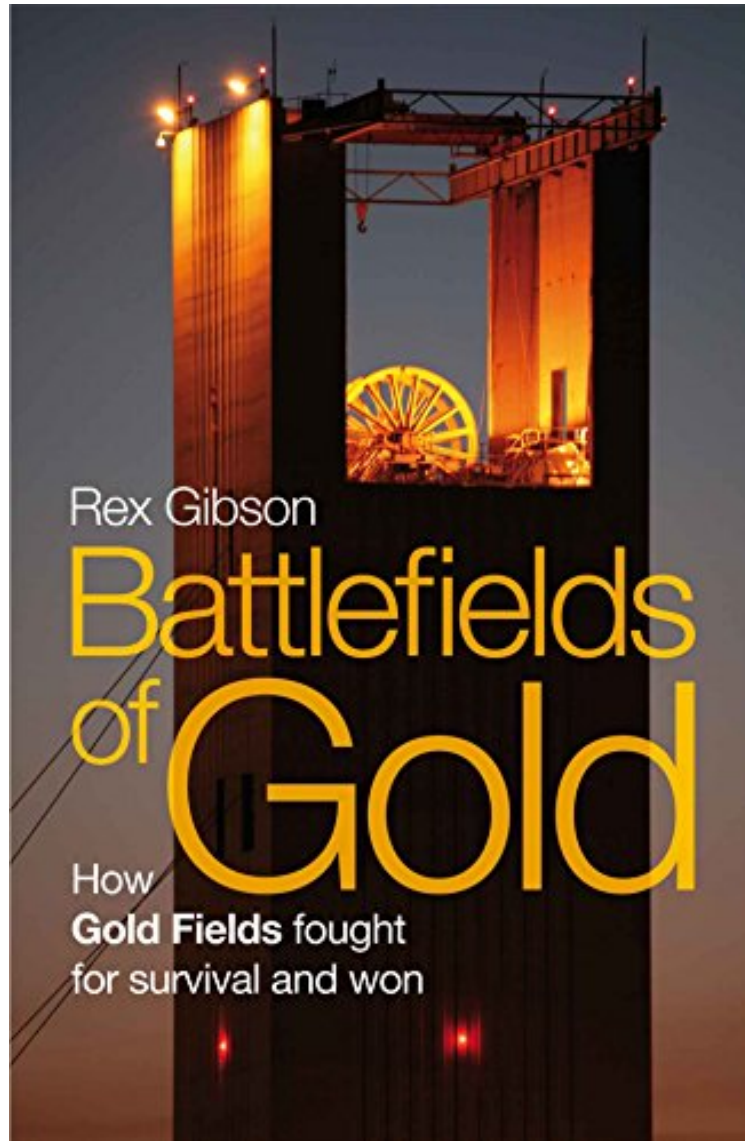


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Battlefields of Gold

Rex Gibson

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Rex Gibson : Battlefields of Gold before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Battlefields of Gold:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I lived itBy GardenistaI worked for Gold Fields, so I found this quite interesting. I lived it.It was a fair assessment of what happened while I was there. The author was respectful of all management, and I enjoyed it.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. GFSA Beatification.By CustomerThe old guard can do no wrong! A very biased account. Gets very muddy when it gets to the Harmony bid. More fiction than fact!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Business history and journalism at a high levelBy Polo

SailorThe recital of events is clear and concise, and remarkably accurate given how complex such bitterly contested matters are. The assessment of personalities is entirely fair, even as it elects to gloss over the most of Anglo American's ultimately self defeating conceits. There could profitably have been fuller examination why no coherent strategy for realizing the Oppenheimer family dynastic ambitions was formulated by Harry Oppenheimer's heirs, successors, and their key advisers. A prime example: Lazard, whose free wheeling subjected Anglo's tender offer for Consgold to American jurisdiction and the injunction that followed. HO, had he stayed in harness three more years, could have pulled off all the combinations that the book artfully describes, subject only perhaps to some devilish tax hurdles.

This is the story of 25 tumultuous years in the life of the South African mining company of Gold Fields, one of the greatest in the world. If it is true that 'Big Business' is the last adventure frontier, then mining for gold has to be the most adventurous, dangerous and unpredictable business pursuit of them all. Mining is all about risk and reward. Gold Fields, fourth-biggest gold producer in the world, has confronted risk many times in its history. Mining four kilometres under the earth as well as surface mining, it has flirted with disaster as often as it has known triumph. Viewed from a distance, great companies seem to float serenely across untroubled waters. But the reality is very different. Mining is about people too; strong-minded people ready to take chances and back their own judgement. Such forceful and dauntless personalities tend to clash. *Battlefields of Gold* is not merely a history. It tells the stories, largely untold, of what really went on behind the scenes as the company fought time and again for survival. Fast-paced and pulling no punches, this tell-all history provides intriguing insights into the boardroom battles, risky ventures and tempestuous corporate climate of this giant gold producer.