**Small Group Discussion Questions\_\_\_\_ FYS 178**

10, 15 Sep 2020 (Wks#5, 6) Society, Technology & Weather

Questions for **Chapter 4** of “Appropriating the Weather…”

[1] In 1907, Vilhelm moved from Sweden to a professorship in which country? Who was his assistant at the time of the move? What were some of the problems VB faced in his new location in 1907 with respect to his research assistants (disciples) and laboratory conditions? How did these problems threaten VB’s career as a geophysicist?

[2] Which research assistant did VB fear losing in 1910 and which assistant did he actually lose? Why did VB fear losing the first assistant and why did the second assistant leave (hint: check your footnotes!)? What do financial institutions do today to keep promising young assistants? How is this similar to VB’s strategy for keeping the first assistant?

[3] What were the three less-than-satisfactory conditions that VB found himself in that led him to accept a position at the new geophysics institute at Leipzig in 1912?

[4] In what country is Leipzig located and why was it here that aerological activities were increasing dramatically (p. 84)?

[5] What was VB’s position at the Leipzig institute and how was this new position uniquely qualified to meet VB’s three requirements for being a success in geophysics? (**hint:** ask Prof. Miller to remind the class of VB’s three requirements)

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Questions for **Chapter 4** of “Appropriating the Weather…” (cont.)

[6] What were the immediate tasks to complete for VB and his assistants as they started their work at the Leipzig institute (p. 88)? How useful would this work have been to the aerological community if it had consisted merely of “highly idealized atmospheric situations”?

[7] VB’s Leipzig institute created a publication divided into two series of charts. Of what types of charts did each of the series consist (footnotes!)? What were some benefits realized by VB after publishing the series of charts?

[8] What does “prognostic methods” mean toward the bottom of Page 89? How can a “rational prognosis” be conceived in meteorology? In other words, what meteorological fields are needed at three o’clock combined with \_\_\_\_\_\_, to give the field of atmospheric motion at six o’clock?

[9] Which “problematic force” had to be resolved before VB’s *Dynamics* could be written? List a few (no more than three) “classic” studies produced by the Leipzig school that fed into VB’s *Dynamics* volume.

[10] VB’s studies implied that lines of convergence were linked with what weather phenomenon? What types of dangerous weather were associated with this phenomenon and what aspects of commerce were badly impacted by these events?