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

6-8 Oct 2020 (Wk#9) Society, Technology & Weather

Questions for **Chapter 7** of “Appropriating the Weather…”

[1] “Now the war had taught the lesson that weather was important for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Fill in the blank. In light of this statement, were the weather services that were formed during World War I in any danger of being removed after the war was over?

[2] How might weather information have played a role in the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington DC on September 11, 2001? What types of terrorist attacks might happen around the world in the future? What type of weather information might be needed in future attacks by (a) the attackers and (b) emergency personnel responding to the attacks?

[3] Make a note of how weather impacts a typical commercial air flight. Think in terms of safety (take-offs, landings, general comfort) and how to fly the most economically (e.g. fuel efficiency). Observations and predictions of what aspects of weather aid the most in having a pleasant, economical, and safe commercial flying experience? How might these requirements change if low-earth-orbit (space travel) becomes a reality for civilians?

[4] “Some authorities regarded the meteorological difficulties confronting civil aviation’s growth as even greater than the technological ones.” Note some of the technological challenges to commercial aviation noted in Chap. 7 and then describe some of the meteorological challenges in light of your answers to Question [3]. Based on your responses, do you agree with the statement above?

[5] Describe Vilhelm’s expression “militarizing of meteorology” in light of changes to the weather services of various European countries after World War I.

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Questions for **Chapter 7** of “Appropriating the Weather…” (cont.)

[6] The Col. H. G. Lyons quote from his article “Supply of Meteorological Information” lists new requirements that aviation forecasts during wartime presented to meteorologists. Write down two sample questions asked of forecasters that highlight the difficulties of these new requirements noted by Col. Lyons.

[7] How did weather definitions and classifications evolve in the period leading up to and including World War I? Write down specific examples.

[8] What was the new type of weather forecast made during World War I? Write down its definition. Why did this type of weather forecast emerge during World War I (why wasn’t it “invented” sooner)? What was specified in these weather forecasts and what time period was covered?

[9] How did the added details of the new types of weather observations and forecasts in Questions [7] and [8] put a strain on the communications systems in place during World War I? Why was the rapid transmission of these forecasts necessary during the war? After the war, how did the emerging commercial aviation industry put a further burden on communications systems?

[10] How would you summarize the “…tensions that existed between the state of meteorology and its social purpose” (p. 149) as you reconsider the information contained in Chapter 7? What was the primary social purpose of meteorology in 1919? How did meteorology in 1919 fail to meet this purpose? How did it succeed in meeting this purpose?