

Preface

About 10 years ago Hans-Jürgen, M. Menenti and I were talking about the fact that climate in different continents of the world is governed by many more factors other than just their latitudes. The most important of these are the oceans and seas in their neighborhoods. Also, there is the topography of land, changing vegetation cover, etc. Each continent has its own peculiarities and climate change in that region of the world depends on different forcings. These could be changing intensities of monsoons in South and East Asia, hurricanes and tornadoes in the Americas, ups and downs of the jet stream in Europe and around the world, expanding and shrinking of deserts in Africa and China, and finally the coming and going of El Niños affecting rainfall all the way from Florida to California on to Australia every 5–10 years. So we approached Springer's Dr. Witchel and presented the idea of publishing a series of books on Regional Climates. The first of these books was on Mediterranean Climate, followed soon after by a detailed text on how Land Surface Processes (can be) Assessed from Space. Hans-Jürgen and I knew enough people around the world to get for example, Dr. Congbin Fu and his colleagues to edit a magnificent book on Regional Climate Studies of China and Dr. von Storch to compile an assessment of Climate for the Baltic Sea Basin. But we didn't forget North America. We approached Dr. George Ohring of NOAA who with his colleagues has produced this text which I hope will be useful as a source for current debate on American Climate.

Unfortunately, Hans-Jürgen Bolle passed away in March 2013 but his memories guided us to the completion of this book as well. I will not be able to carry on with this series alone. I sincerely hope that Springer will find some folks to use the material in these books, complete them on other continents like South America, and tie them together with 50 years of data collected around the globe by satellites and ground measurements and come up with better and deeper insight into Global Climate Change in the future.

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