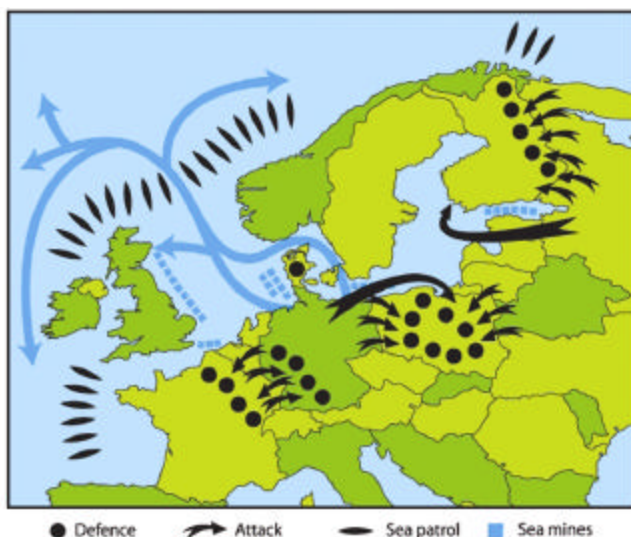


## A. CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

### INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1939, a major world war was looming. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain desperately tried to persuade German Chancellor Adolph Hitler not to push the world into another major war. But the threat of climate change was not among the arguments Chamberlain used to convince his opponent and his efforts were in vain. Hitler wanted a war and started it in September 1939. The war lasted six years and initiated a big climate change.

The book is about oceans, wars at sea and climate changes. It focuses on two major climate changes, which happened because man abused oceans through naval warfare twice during the last century. Last and most dramatic climate change occurred during World War II, sixty-five years ago.



*The regions of major war activities during autumn 1939  
Some of the borders shown are not those of 1939*

Fifty million people were killed and the infrastructure and the economy of many countries ruined. But there are even more tragic consequences, which have not been tackled very seriously yet. With the commencement of the World War II, warm climate changed to a cold phase, which lasted four decades. Nowadays, more than half a century after the above-mentioned events, leading politicians and scientists warn that climate changes are the greatest threat to mankind. They claim that the threat is caused by industrial release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This works like a greenhouse effect that makes the earth's temperature rise.

The British Prime Minister Tony Blair recently said that there is "no bigger long-term question facing the global community" than the threat of a climate change<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, the focus is misplaced. It is not the atmosphere, which determines the fate of the climate. It is the ocean that does it. J.W. von Goethe would have agreed:

<sup>1</sup> [www.bbc.co.uk/climate/policies/uk\\_policy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/climate/policies/uk_policy.shtml) Topic: Climate Change from the BBC Weather Centre/ Policies/ UK Policy; "PM Tony Blair described climate change as 'the most important environmental issue facing the world today'";

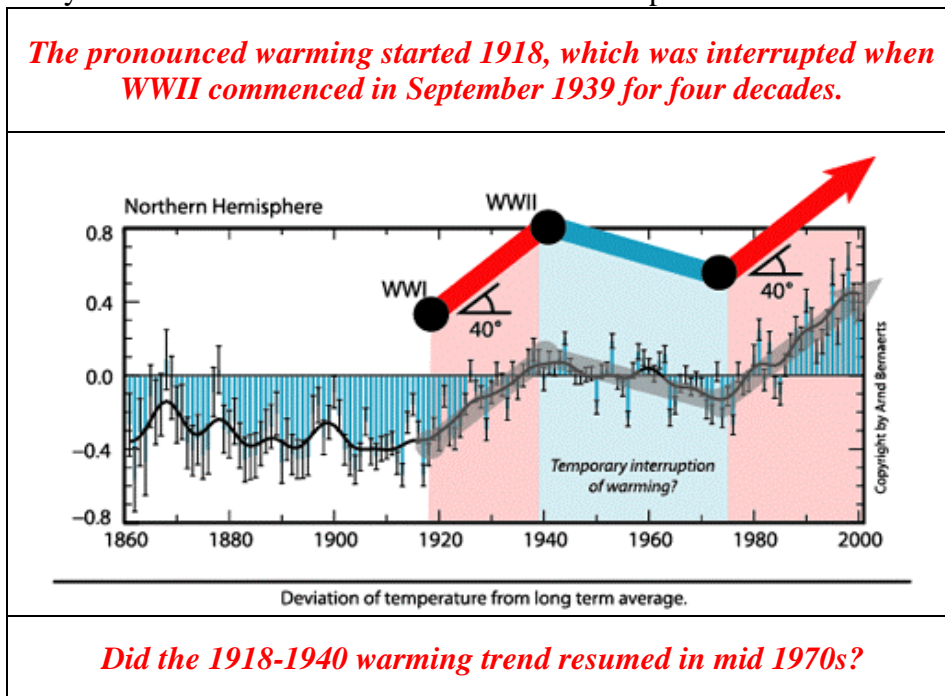
*Until one has experienced the sea around one,  
One has no idea of world and its relation to the world<sup>2</sup>.*

The war at sea caused a major climate change starting with 1918 and then another one after the end of 1939. If the oceans, as the driving force of the climate, had influenced scientific research since the early days of meteorology, 150 years ago, it would then have been possible to clearly stress that, at the advent of the two World Wars during the last century, extensive fighting at sea endangered the normal course of the climate.

How would the course of international conflicts have been managed if the world's leading statesmen of the 20<sup>th</sup> century had been concerned with climatic changes due to the impact a war at sea could have had on the ocean and consequently on the climate? Could World War II have been prevented if global climate change had been as much a concern as today? Or would the leaders have tried to persuade warring navies to leave oceans and seas out of the conflict?

But no one had alerted the warring nations at any time over the last 150 years that going out on sea to fight a war would have an inevitable impact on the status of the oceans and, consequently, on the climate. In August 1939, no one demanded to Adolf Hitler, in strong diplomatic notes, to abstain from any military activities out in the oceans.

The inevitable happened. Within six months, the Second World War (WWII) commenced and Northern Europe was plunged into the coldest winter in more than 100 years. By mid-February 1940, Europe was in the grip of arctic conditions that had not been experienced since the Little Ice Age, in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. And neither the scientific community nor the political leaders had any idea about the link between war and arctic temperature conditions.



It is an irony that Adolf Hitler's deputy, Field Marshal Herman Goering<sup>3</sup>, in a speech designed to boost the morale of the German population, which was striving to overcome the unbelievable

<sup>2</sup> Johann - Wolfgang v. Goethe , 1749-1832, "Italian Voyage", 1787;

hardship of a cold and snowy winter, could get away with the statement he made on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1940:

*Nature is still more powerful than man.  
I can fight man but I cannot fight nature  
when I lack the means to carry out such battle.  
We did not ask for ice, snow and cold –  
A higher power sent it to us.<sup>4</sup>*

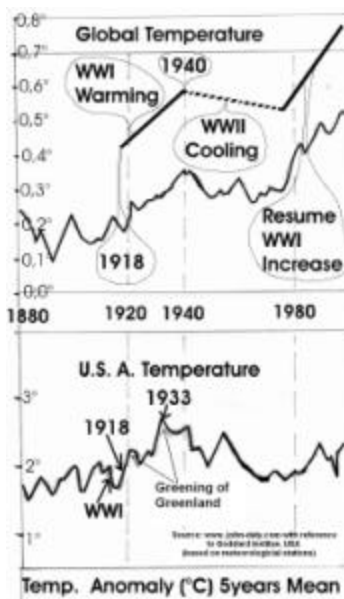
How wrong was Herman Goering! He, German Reich were alone responsible transformation of both regional and war continued for five more years and global after Japan's attack on Pearl 1941, it did not only generate three Europe but also generated four decades 1940 to the early 1980s. This happened of devastating naval activities in the regions.

A major climatic implication in oceanic with the development and use of screw-vessels in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. For vessels criss-crossed the seas, travelling nautical miles every day. It can be over the years, each ship cruising force more heat into the sea than out of oceans hold, the warmer the atmosphere gets.

But this simple fact had not been given any serious attention by the scientific community until recently. This book aims to raising the issue while concentrating on the two wars at sea, from 1914 to 1918 and from 1939 to 1945, when seas and oceans were turned into battlegrounds and huge water areas were turned upside-down by naval vessels and by activities such as shooting, aerial bombing, torpedoing merchant vessels, sea mining, and depth charging of submarines.

“Everything is maintained through water!” says Goethe in his drama, Faust II. Understanding global nature in this way needs to be also reflected in the field of climate research and in any definition on climate. Goethe would certainly have agreed with the definition on climate as the continuation of the ocean by other means<sup>5</sup>. In this book you will find facts, circumstances and evidence about the impact of naval warfare on modern climate.

The facts presented aim to leading the way to a new thinking on climate, based on the conviction that only the one who is able to feel the eternal power the oceans have on our global nature affairs



Adolf Hitler and the for the sudden global climate. While the the war at sea turned Harbour, in December extreme cold winters in of cold that lasted from after an extensive series Atlantic and Pacific

affairs already started driven steam and motor almost a century, 10,000 more than 10,000,000 logically assumed that, through the seas will it. The more heat the

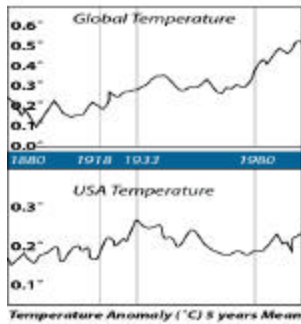
3 Hermann Goering a celebrated WWI air fighter pilot joined the Nazi movement as early as 1923 and became head of Germany's armed forces in 1938. The following year he officially became Hitler's deputy and legal heir. After WWII commenced Goering was placed in charge of the Luftwaffe. In 1946 he was found guilty at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trail;

4 Herman Goering in a speech in Berlin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 1940; reported by The New York Times, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 1940;

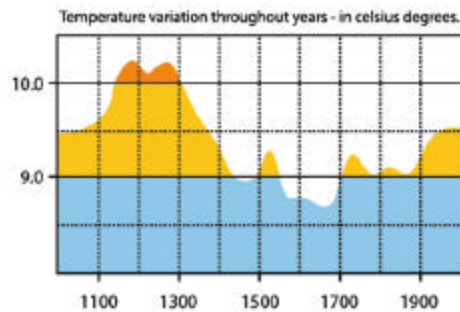
5 See: Arnd Bernaerts, Letter to Editor, NATURE, Volume 360, 26 November 1992, page 292;

Arnd Bernaerts, "Legal Means for Understanding the Marine and Climatic Change Issue", in: Thomas A. Mensah (ed.), Ocean Governance: Strategies and Approaches for the 21st Century, Honolulu 1994, pp. 157f;

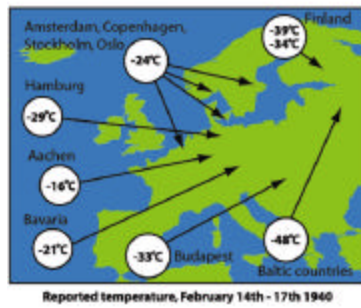
will be capable to uphold the principal driving force on earth, namely, the oceans which ultimately control the weather and climate.



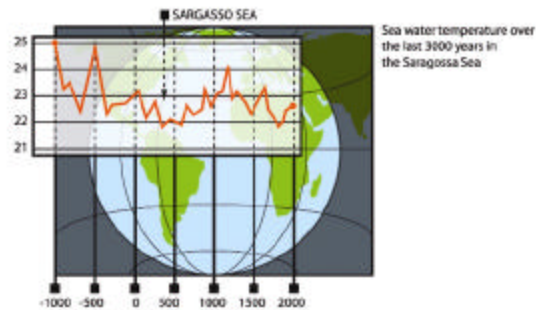
*Temperature deviation in USA versus global trend, see page 10*



*High temperatures early last millennium  
B/W graph page 21*



*The interested observer may compare January 1940 with January 2007, showing widely +5 to + 10 °Celsius, B/W page 15*



*Three times in 3000 years it was much warmer than now, B/W page 21*