

Interactive comment on “A Sudden Stratospheric Warming Compendium” by Amy H. Butler et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The authors provide a freely accessible and expendable compendium of sudden stratospheric warming events based on six meteorological reanalyses. Such a compendium will be of great value for the science community. The authors can be thanked for the effort to perform the work and to make it easily accessible.

The manuscript is well written. The data is well accessible and good documented. I have only one minor comment. The observational data base in the stratosphere before 1964 is rather sparse. In particular radiosondes in Russia seldom if any reached the stratosphere. I missed a related critical discussion. I recommend adding such a discussion. I expect that afterwards the early SSWs will be discarded or at least marked as problematic cases. I don't doubt that around the listed dates SSWs happened. However, I doubt, that the evolution is documented well enough in the reanalyses.

After the observational issue has been addressed properly I recommend publishing the manuscript.

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Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., doi:10.5194/essd-2016-49, 2016.

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