

Foreword to Volume 1

When I decided to integrate and republish my texts from the 1970s and early 1980s on developments in the Brazilian Amazon, I realized that there would be an interest not only in how the large-scale opening and exploitation of the area started at the time, but especially in the major changes that Amazonia has gone through to this day. I therefore decided to approach my colleague Gerd Kohlhepp with the question whether he could provide an overview of developments in the past four to five decades. He immediately responded positively and ensured that there was a very complete, very detailed and up-to-date Magnum Opus about the occupation history of Brazilian Amazonia. Volume Two of this book is proof of this, for which I am very grateful.

Several people helped me prepare the manuscript for Volume One, the first part of this book.

My daughter Petra improved the digitized files, gave the bibliography a more professional design and adapted the text, which originally dealt with current affairs, but now intends to offer a historical retrospective.

Robert Symonds corrected the English, at least to the extent necessary, because he translated all my writings on the Amazon from Dutch into English as long ago as the 1970s and early 1980s.

Margot Stoete digitized and embellished the maps and other figures.

Ron Milder helped me write the chapter on the changes the town of Altamira has undergone since the construction of the Transamazon Highway.

I am very grateful to all of them for their help and cooperation.

I also particularly appreciated the immediate willingness of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut in Berlin to publish the book and include it in the institute's series of publications. I thank Dr. Peter Birle for his support and I am most grateful to Patricia Schulze for carefully preparing the final manuscript.

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Jan M. G. Kleinpenning

