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Cover: The satellite image taken from Aqua/Modis (retrieved via NASA's worldview) shows the characteristic cloud signature of a stationary anticyclone, known as atmospheric block, that affected the Amundsen-Bellingshausen Sea during January 2016. It was the second strongest blocking period since 1979. Characteristic is the massive and impressively large cloud-free spot formed due to the large-scale sinking motion in the center of the block off the Amundsen-Bellingshausen Sea (the underlying sea appears to be black). The anomalous anticyclonic circulation near the surface caused offshore cold-air advection downstream over the Weddell Sea (upper-right corner of image) and onshore warm-air advection over the Amundsen Sea (lower right corner of image). In agreement with this, January 2016 was characterized by an below-average sea ice extension over the Amundsen Sea and an above-average sea ice extension over the Weddell Sea. See also Schemm (pp. 7165-7175; https://doi.org/10.1029/2018GL079109).

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