

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450921503321
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Titolo	The role of the sun in climate change [[electronic resource] /] / Douglas V. Hoyt, Kenneth H. Schatten
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 1997
ISBN	0-19-756073-3 1-280-52781-1 9786610527816 0-19-535748-5 1-4294-1459-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Collana	Oxford scholarship online
Altri autori (Persone)	SchattenKenneth H
Disciplina	551.6
Soggetti	Climatic changes - Effect of solar activity on Solar activity Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 1997.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 245-274) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; 1. Introduction; I. THE SUN; 2. Observations of the Sun; 3. Variations in Solar Brightness; II. THE CLIMATE; 4. Climate Measurement and Modeling; 5. Temperature; 6. Rainfall; 7. Storms; 8. Biota; 9. Cyclomania; III. THE LONGER TERM SUN/CLIMATE CONNECTION; 10. Solar and Climate Changes; 11. Alternative Climate-Change Theories; 12. Gaia or Athena? The Early Faint-Sun Paradox; 13. Final Thoughts; IV. APPENDICES; 1. Glossaries; 2. Solar and Terrestrial Data; 3. A Technical Discussion of Some Statistical Techniques used in Sun/Climate Studies; Bibliography; Index;
Sommario/riassunto	The luminosity of the sun governs the temperature of the planets. And the solar forcing, or driving, of climate, primarily due to changes in solar radiation, is an idea whose history has not been well documented in a book. Recent satellite measurements have shown that solar radiation varies as a function of wavelength - a concept that for the past two centuries scientists have claimed would be proved. Now, with all of the attention being given to global warming, this topic has again become timely. This text reviews the physics of the concept of solar

forcing in manageable terms, tracing its history from its beginnings in the early 1800's to its apparent success in the 1920's, to its near demise in the 1950's and its resurrection in recent years.

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