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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.
