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Sommario/riassunto	Readers of this book will generally fit into two groups. One group is geologists and geochemists, who have studied the global carbon cycle for many decades. These readers will find that the papers in this book present a new view of familiar themes. Whereas much previous work on the carbon cycle, and other geochemical cycles, has emphasized the nature of the steady state maintained by complex networks of feedbacks, recent attention has shifted to the changes implied by the way these feedbacks respond to perturbations.