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Not by Fire but by Ice

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Lack of sunspots to bring record cold, warns NASA scientist

November 12, 2018 by Robert



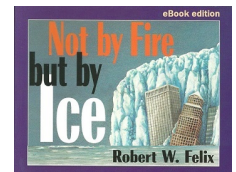
"It could happen in a matter of months," says Martin Mlynczak of NASA's Langley Research Center.

"The sun is entering one of the deepest Solar Minima of the Space Age," wrote Dr Tony Phillips just six weeks ago, on 27 Sep 2018.

Sunspots have been absent for most of 2018 and Earth's upper atmosphere is responding, says Phillips, editor of spaceweather.com.

Data from NASA's TIMED satellite show that the thermosphere (the uppermost layer of air around our planet) is cooling and shrinking, literally decreasing the radius of the

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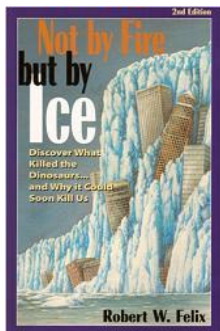


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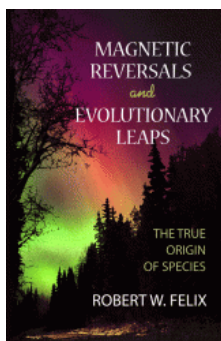


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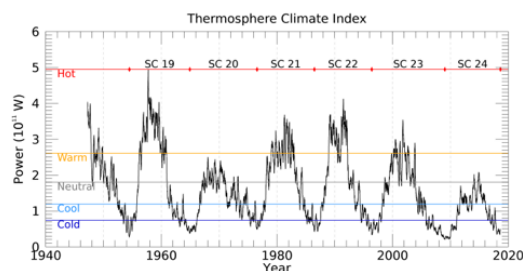


atmosphere.

To help track the latest developments, Martin Mlynczak of NASA's Langley Research Center and his colleagues recently introduced the "Thermosphere Climate Index."

The Thermosphere Climate Index (TCI) tells how much heat nitric oxide (NO) molecules are dumping into space. During Solar Maximum, TCI is high (meaning "Hot"); during Solar Minimum, it is low (meaning "Cold").

"Right now, it is very low indeed ... 10 times smaller than we see during more active phases of the solar cycle," says Mlynczak



The Thermosphere Climate Index by Mlynczak and colleagues.

Displays times of Cold, Cool, Neutral, Warm, and Hot since 1940.

Record cold in a matter of months

"If current trends continue, it could soon set a Space Age record for cold," says Mlynczak. "We're not there quite yet, but it could happen in a matter of months."

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**Warmer than
today during
most of
the past 10,000
years**

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Ice Age Maps



We would be at war

"If a foreign nation had launched an attack on America to destroy its coal-fired plants, to shut down its coal mines, and to thwart its ability to drill for oil and natural gas, we would be at war with it." - Alan

Caruba

(Click to see entire article)

**Temperatures
warmer than
today during
most of the past**



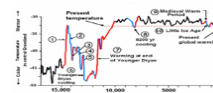
The TIMED satellite monitoring the temperature of the upper atmosphere

See more:

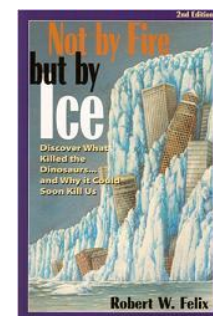
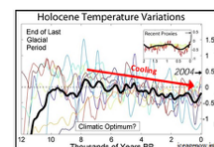
The Chill of Solar Minimum

Thanks to François M., John A. Brown, Craig Adkins, Loherchef, Laurel and Craig Adkins for this link

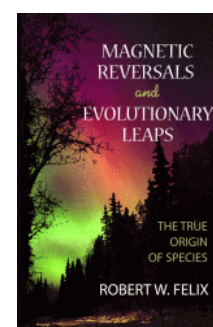
Dr. Tony Phillips was once (and perhaps still is) production editor of Science@NASA.



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have been
FALLING
for 8,000 years**



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