

ADVERTISEMENT



NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM

Site Index | Subscribe | Shop | Search

Go

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS

REPORTING YOUR WORLD DAILY

### TODAY'S BEST NEWS PHOTO



[Week in Photos: Baby Lemur, Lunar Eclipse, Mini Robot, More](#)

### VIDEO IN THE NEWS



[Video: New Bonobo Ape Population Discovered](#)

- News Front Page
- 15 Most Popular News Stories
- Photos in the News
- Videos in the News
- Animals & Nature News
- Archaeology & Paleontology News
- Environment News
- Health News
- History & Culture News
- Weird News
- Science & Space News
- Travel & Adventure News

### NEWS FEEDS

[XML](#) [RSS](#)

Get our news delivered directly to your desktop—free. [How to Use XML or RSS](#)

### PODCASTS

Download free [National Geographic podcasts](#), featuring news, travel, music, animals, and more!

[New to podcasts?](#)

### FREE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for our free [Inside National Geographic newsletter](#). Every two weeks we'll send you our top stories and photos ([see sample](#)).

### CONTACT US

[Email the News Staff](#)  
[Contact Other Staff](#)

### SHOP



[Visual History of the World Book](#)

[News Front Page](#) > [Environment](#)

Sponsored by ROLEX

## Mars Melt Hints at Solar, Not Human, Cause for Warming, Scientist Says

Kate Ravilious  
for [National Geographic News](#)  
February 28, 2007

Simultaneous warming on Earth and Mars suggests that our planet's recent climate changes have a natural—and not a human-induced—cause, according to one scientist's controversial theory.

Earth is currently experiencing rapid warming, which the vast majority of climate scientists says is due to humans pumping huge amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. (Get an overview: ["Global Warming Fast Facts"](#).)



[Enlarge Photo](#)

[Email to a Friend](#)

### RELATED

[Climate Change Predictions Not Exaggerated, Analysis Says \(February 1, 2007\)](#)

[New Mars Pictures Show Signs of Watery "Aquifers" \(February 16, 2007\)](#)

[Photo Gallery: Global Warming](#)

Mars, too, appears to be enjoying more mild and balmy temperatures.

In 2005 data from NASA's Mars Global Surveyor and Odyssey missions revealed that the carbon dioxide "ice caps" near Mars's south pole had been diminishing for three summers in a row.

Habibullo Abdussamatov, head of space research at St. Petersburg's Pulkovo Astronomical Observatory in Russia, says the Mars data is evidence that the current global warming on Earth is being caused by changes in the sun.

"The long-term increase in solar irradiance is heating both Earth and Mars," he said.

### Solar Cycles

Abdussamatov believes that changes in the sun's heat output can account for almost all the climate changes we see on both planets.

Mars and Earth, for instance, have experienced periodic ice ages throughout their histories.

"Man-made greenhouse warming has made a small contribution to the warming seen on Earth in recent years, but it cannot compete with the increase in solar irradiance," Abdussamatov said.

By studying fluctuations in the warmth of the sun, Abdussamatov believes he can see a pattern that fits with the ups and downs in climate we see on Earth and Mars.

Abdussamatov's work, however, has not been well received by other climate scientists.

### TODAY'S MOST POPULAR NEWS STORY



[World's Longest Underground River Discovered in Mexico, Divers Say](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Considering a career in photography?

A world leader in professional photographic education

**BROOKS INSTITUTE OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
801 Alston Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

### LATEST PHOTOS IN THE NEWS



[Grand Canyon Glass Bridge Rolled Out](#)



[Triceratops' "Granddaddy" Discovered in Canada](#)



[Rare Mountain Gorilla Born in Congo](#)

[More Photos in the News](#)

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S PHOTO OF THE DAY



[Today's Photo](#)  
[Download as Wallpaper](#)

### Podcasts



**National Geographic to Go**  
National Geographic News, Videos, and More  
[Download Podcasts](#)

BEST PRICE AVAILABLE

**\$15**

[ORDER NOW](#)

12 ISSUES OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

SAVE 74%