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1. **Conduct a search** using simple or advanced, by keyword, full-text, publisher, author, and more. View results ranked by book or chapter.

2. **Open a book** by clicking on the title name or jacket. No downloads or installations are required.

3. **Explore the document** by navigating to search terms, searching for key words, jumping to relevant chapters, and flipping through pages.
4. Highlight, take notes, and transform text into hyperlinks to other online resources. Highlight with or without notes attached in multiple colors. Create a personal bookshelf (if needed) to save and organize your research.

5. Use InfoTools to link to other online resources. Simply select words of interest in a document.

6. Copy and paste text, and print pages and chapters, with automatic citations that include URLs back to the source.

7. Manage and share your research by dragging books, highlights and notes into bookshelf folders, which can be emailed to peers or shared via URL.

8. If your institution offers ebrary’s Unity Reader, which provides added functionality, launch it by clicking on the ebrary Reader button.

Additional Resources

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Figure 1.4 Regions where droughts and floods occurred associated with the 1982-83 El Niño.

But the question must be asked: how remarkable are these extreme events that I have been listing? Do they point to a changing climate due to human activities? Here a note of caution must be sounded. The range of normal natural climate variation is large. Climate extremes are nothing new. Climate records are continually being broken. In fact, a month without a broken record somewhere would itself be something of a record!

Many of us may remember the generally cold period over large areas of the world during the 1660s and early 1700s that caused speculation that the world was heading for an ice age. A British television programme about climate change called ‘The Ice Age Comes’ was prepared in the early 1970s and widely screened – but the cold trend soon came to an end. We must not be misled by our relatively short memories.

One of the largest volcanic eruptions in the twentieth century occurred at Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines on 12 June 1991 when 10 cubic kilometers of ash and dust were released into the stratosphere. This spent dramatic dust cloud caused spectacular sunsets around the world for years to come.