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Cover: The active sand dunes in the center of the Taklimakan Desert, China. The mean annual precipitation in the central desert is less than 25 mm, making it one of the driest regions in the world. Local people call this desert the “dead sand sea,” and say that it “ever comes in, never goes out.” See “New evidence on the age of the Taklimakan Desert,” by Sun et al., p. 159–162.
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