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1	A Review of El Niño Southern Oscillation Linkage to Strong Volcanic Eruptions and Post-						
2	Volcanic Winter Warming						
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7	ABSTRACT						
	Understanding the influence of volcanism on ENSO and associated climatic impacts is of great scientific and social importance. Although many studies on the volcano-ENSO nexus are available, a thorough review of ENSO sensitivity to explosive eruptions is still missing. Therefore, this study aims to provide an in-depth assessment of the ENSO response to volcanism. Most past studies suggest that there is an emerging consensus in models, with the vast majority showing an El Niño-like SST response during the eruption year and a La Niña-like response a few years later. RCP8.5-based climate model projections also suggest strong El Niño conditions and significant monsoonal rainfall reduction following strong tropical volcanism. However, some studies involving climate reconstructions and model simulations still raise concerns about the ENSO-volcano link and suggest a weak ENSO response to volcanism. This happens because ENSO response to volcanism seems very sensitive to reconstruction methods, ENSO preconditioning, eruption timing, position and amplitude. We noticed that some response mechanisms are still unclear; for instance, how the tropical volcanic forcing with nearly uniform radiative cooling projects onto ENSO when coincidental ENSO events are underway. Moreover, there are fewer observational and proxy records for extratropical volcanism impact on ENSO. Nevertheless, model-based studies suggest that Northern (Southern) Hemispheric extratropical eruption winter warming is still elusive, however, recent findings suggest that the origin of post-eruption winter warming is still elusive, mowever, recent findings suggest to volcanism could be improved by considering a synchronized modeling approach with large ensembles.						
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	Key words: Tropical Volcanism, Extratropical Volcanism, El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), General Circulation Models, Observations, Climate Proxies.						
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1 1. Introduction

2 The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) shapes global climate patterns yet its sensitivity to 3 external forcing remains ambiguous. Modeling studies suggest that ENSO is sensitive to sulfate 4 aerosols associated with explosive volcanism but observational support for this effect remains 5 uncertain. This paper reviews the current state of knowledge of volcanic eruptions and its impacts 6 on ENSO variability, using proxy reconstructions and recent modeling results from state-of-the-art 7 global climate models. The primary focus in this review is to discuss latest progress and consensus 8 on the impacts of strong tropical and extratropical eruptions on ENSO, whose variability has 9 tremendous economic and societal impacts.

10 It is well known that the large volcanic eruptions produce profound global and regional 11 influences by affecting both the atmosphere and ocean circulation (Robock, 2000, Driscoll et al. 12 2012; Stenchikov et al. 2006, 2009; Ding et al. 2014; Fujiwara et al. 2015, 2020; Dogar et al. 2017; 13 Swingedouw et al. 2017; Dogar, 2018; Dogar and Sato, 2019; McGregor et al. 2020). Climatic 14 impacts of explosive volcanic eruptions include a temporary disruption of global surface warming 15 due to their strong surface temperature cooling effects (Fyfe et al. 2013; Haywood et al. 2014; 16 Santer et al. 2014; Maher et al. 2015; Medhaug et al. 2017, Monerie et al. 2017). Large explosive 17 eruptions potentially inject immense sulfur-containing gases, ash and sulfur rich aerosols into the 18 lower part of the stratosphere, where they surround the globe through circulation. These volcanic 19 aerosol particles scatter and absorb incoming solar radiation, resulting in a net reduction in surface 20 radiation leading to net surface cooling, and heating of the lower stratosphere (Luther, 1976; 21 Rampino & Self, 1984; Stenchikov et al. 1998; Robock & Mao, 1995; Timmreck, 2012;). Global 22 mean surface temperatures reach maximum cooling within a few months after the eruptions peak in 23 optical depth and get back to normal a couple of years after the event (e.g., Thompson et al. 2009; 24 Timmreck, 2012; Folland et al 2018).

25 The largest volcanic eruptions also lead to a reduction in ocean heat content and drop in sea 26 level (Church et al. 2005; Pausata et al. 2015; Fasullo et al. 2017; Dogar and Sato, 2020; Ding et al. 27 2014; Dogar and Shahid, 2020). Volcanic eruptions could also potentially modulate natural climate 28 variability, as they provide suitable conditions in the lower stratosphere leading to the Arctic 29 Oscillation positive phase during the first two boreal winters after eruption (Kodera, 1994; 30 Christiansen, 2008; Marshall et al. 2009; Shindell et al. 2004; Stenchikov et al. 2006). Given that El 31 Niño tends to be associated with a negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), there is 32 also a possibility that post-eruption ENSO variability influences the global volcanic response 33 through stratospheric pathways (Marshall et al. 2009; Ineson and Scaife, 2009; King et al. 2018).

Recently, several studies have strengthened the case for impacts of volcanic eruptions on
the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (e.g., McGregor & Timmermann, 2011; Zanchettin et al. 2012;
Predybaylo et al. 2017, 2020; Hermanson et al. 2020; Pausata et al. 2020; Yang et al. 2022) and if

ENSO modulation by volcanic events is strong, it may likely enhance our understanding on the predictability of El Niño/La Niña events after future volcanic eruptions. Given the strong ENSO influence on global and regional climate and its strong societal importance, we therefore review the current evidence associated with the impact of strong volcanism on ENSO.

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5 Analysis of observational Sea Surface Temperature (SST) and surface air temperature 6 suggests that El Niño events overlapped with four large eruptions that occurred in the recent 7 historical period (Figure 1 and Figure 2). MacCracken and Luther (1984) first identified the 8 apparent connection between volcanism and ENSO (i.e., an El Niño type event develops within a 9 few seasons after El Chichón type forcing) using statistical dynamical climate model, which latter 10 was supported by Handler (1984, 1986, 1989). However, the relationship shown in Handler (1984, 11 1989) was mainly based on serial correlations between both phenomena that appeared in observed 12 SST anomalies composited around volcanic events (Figure 1). A detailed initial review of volcano-13 El Niño hypothesis, mainly based on statistical correlation methods, could be seen in past studies 14 (e.g., Mass and Portman, 1989; Handler and Andsager, 1994; Adams et al. 2003). Questions about 15 Handler's (1984) results arose due to the methodology used to study statistical robustness, volcanic 16 chronology, and volcanic events timing relative to the onset of ENSO event (e.g., Sear et al. 1987; 17 Nicholls, 1988; Handler 1989; Handler and Andsager, 1994; Self et al. 1997; Robock, 2000; 18 Stevenson et al. 2017). This is obvious in Figure 1a, as both the 1982 El Chichón and 1991 19 Pinatubo volcanic eruptions happened after the onset of El Niño events in the relevant years, 20 suggesting a coincidental relationship. However, this could also be related to ENSO 21 preconditioning and its linkage to volcanic forcing (Predybaylo et al. 2020; Zhu et al. 2022).

Xing et al. (2020) examined the composite global surface air temperature (SAT) anomalies
during the first boreal winter after five 20th Century eruptions in the reanalysis and GISS Surface
Temperature (GISTEMP) observations. Both in 20th Century Reanalysis version 2c (20CRv2c;
Figure 2a) and observations (GISTEMP; Fig 2b), a pause in post-eruption global cooling during the
first boreal winter appeared due to significant El Niño–like warming in the tropics and strong
warming in Eurasia, which is consistent with previous finding (Robock and Mao 1992).

28 Similarly, by using observational and modeling studies, Chai et al. (2020) also studied the 29 apparent ENSO link to 20th Century large tropical eruptions. In observational records of the Agung 30 in 1963, El Chichon in 1982, and Pinatubo in 1991 eruptions, the El Niño peak occurred in the first 31 winter after each eruption (Figure 3). Following aforementioned three tropical eruption events, 32 westerly anomalies over western-to-central equatorial Pacific (WCEP) emerged before the peak of 33 the El Niño phase. However, relying on three cases only, it cannot be concluded that these westerly 34 anomalies are caused by tropical eruptions, as the coincidental occurrence could occur simply due 35 to unrelated internal variability (Self et al. 1997; Robock et al. 1995; Menegoz et al. 2018). 36 However, Chai et al. (2020) took composites of the community earth system model (CESM) large

1 ensemble (CESM-LE) experiment with 41 ensemble members and using a large ensemble mean to 2 reduce internal variability, reproduced the El Niño response during the second winter following 3 these three eruptions individually (Figure 3). Prior to the peak El Niño phase in the year of the 4 eruption; a significant westerly anomaly from WCEP is modeled for each eruption. El Niño then 5 develops and reaches its peak in the second northern winter. Figure 3 further suggests a weak La 6 Niña-like response in the observations at year (2) and the CESM-LE simulation at year (3), 7 especially for the Agung and El Chichon eruptions. This La Niña-like response largely resembles 8 the results of Maher et al. (2015) who analyzed CMIP5 models and showed a La Niña-like 9 response a couple of years after the large tropical eruption events. These La Niña-like responses 10 have also been suggested by other researchers (e.g., Li et al. 2013; Pausata et al. 2015). Although 11 this transition to La Niña-like responses is argued to be dynamically driven rather than a direct 12 consequence of general post-eruption cooling (Pausata et al. 2016), the underlying mechanism for 13 these rapid eruption-induced El Niño transitions to La Niña needs further investigation.

14 The current idea encompassing the volcanism influence on ENSO has evolved from the 15 forunner hypothesis suggesting that volcanism has the tendency to modulate the probability and/or 16 intensity of ENSO activity, however, a clear understanding of this relationship is still obscure. 17 Therefore, the rationale behind the present review article is to summarize our understanding of how 18 volcanic eruptions occuring in the tropics and extratropics may influence ENSO forcing using up-19 to-date literature on climate proxies, and climate model simulations. This summary will include a 20 discussion about how ENSO modulation could occur following strong tropical and extratropical 21 volcanism. The sensitivity of the results to eruption magnitude and timing will also be reviewed 22 keeping in mind ENSO preconditioning at the time of the eruption. In addition, we will also review 23 the mysterious post-volcanic high-latitude winter warming effects on Eurasia and North America. 24 The rest of this review article is organized as follows: Section 2 and 3 present the details of the 25 ENSO and volcanic forcing respectively. Section 4 discusses the volcano influence on ENSO from 26 paleoclimate proxy evidence, while Section 5 outlines volcano influence on ENSO from model-27 based studies. Key underlying mechanisms suggested so far to understand the influence of volcanic 28 forcing on ENSO are also analyzed and reviewed in Section 5, whereas Section 6 highlights the 29 sensitivity of ENSO and volcanism to ocean circulation. Section 7 reviews in detail the potential 30 role of ENSO preconditioning, eruption seasonality, position and magnitude in the ENSO response 31 mechanism. Post-eruption high-latitude winter warming effects are discussed in Section 8. 32 Summary and concluding remarks on volcano-ENSO linkage are briefly discussed in Section 9 and 33 Section 10.

34 **2.** ENSO

El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is one among the prominent interannual climate fluctuations on Earth (McPhaden et al., 2006) observed through alternating warm and cold SST

1 conditions in the tropical Pacific (Trenberth et al. 1998; Timmermann et al. 1999; Yeh et al. 2018) 2 and is considered one of the main driver of ocean and the atmospheric climate variability. ENSO 3 variability has the potential to produce extreme events (e.g., droughts, floods) and variations in 4 cyclone activity through global scale atmospheric teleconnections (Nicholls, 1985; Trenberth et al. 5 1998; Power et al. 1999; Dogar and Almazroui, 2022). The climatic impacts of ENSO variability 6 and its intensity on global and regional temperature, precipitation, pressure and associated wind 7 have been extensively discussed in several studies (e.g., Timmermann et al. 1999; Ashok et al. 8 2007; Zhang et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2015; Dogar et al. 2019). Similarly, the direct radiative impact 9 of volcanism on global and regional climate is also discussed in detail in several studies (Robock, 10 2000; Haywood et al. 2013; Dogar et al. 2017). However, ENSO linkage to volcanic activity is not 11 explored much and limited research has been conducted in this direction.

12 In recent studies it has been shown that the volcanic forcing may trigger El Niño-like 13 temperature anomalies in winter and summer seasons following volcanism. For instance, Dogar and 14 Sato (2019) used statistical methods to emphasize that the ENSO has a significantly high 15 correlation with regional surface temperatures in winter and summer, implying that it plays a 16 significant role to modulate regional climate. Several other studies also pointed out that an El Niño 17 event could potentially modify a volcanic signal especially in winter (Robock and Mao, 1995, 18 Timmreck, 2012; Dogar et al. 2017). Typically, an ENSO event peaks during winter period, but its 19 evolution could start a year before its peak and subsequent decay could extend around one to two 20 years after the peak period, hence it has the tendency to interact with a volcanic signal during the 21 summer season as well. For instance, Northern Hemisphere (NH) high-latitude volcanic eruptions 22 force an El Niño along with southward shift of the ITCZ within the following 8–9 months during 23 the summer (Haywood et al. 2013; Pausata et al. 2015, 2016). Moreover, tropical low-latitude 24 explosive eruption events tend to develop El Niño-like anomalies for about one year after the 25 eruption (Adams et al. 2003; Mann et al. 2005; Maher et al. 2015; Ohba et al. 2013; Predybaylo et 26 al. 2017). Since the last three major tropical volcanic eruptions (i.e., Agung in 1963, El Chichón in 27 1982, and Pinatubo in 1991) overlapped with El Niño episodes (Trenberth and Dai, 2007; 28 Timmreck, 2012); thus, the volcanic impacts could be hampered or masked by ENSO impacts. 29 Hence, to precisely assess the volcanic impacts, the removal of ENSO signals (for instance, by 30 using linear regression or superposed epoch analysis) was suggested in past studies (e.g., Sear et al. 31 1987; Mass and Portman, 1989; Dogar et al. 2017; Robock and Liu, 1994). However, recent studies 32 suggest that the ENSO signal could be modulated by volcanism and vice versa (through post-33 volcanic indirect circulation effects), therefore, ENSO and volcanic signals need to be studied in 34 conjunction to each other (Dogar and Sato, 2019). Therefore, in this review paper, we revisited 35 climate proxies and past modeling studies to better understand the volcano-ENSO linkages.

2 **3.** Volcanism

3 Our understanding of the microphysical and chemical processes of volcanic aerosols and their effect 4 on climate is still incomplete largely because of small number of massive stratospheric eruptions 5 occurring in the satellite era. Volcanic eruptions potentially inject a massive amount of sulfur rich 6 gases into the lower part of the stratosphere, where they are oxidized, forming sulfate aerosol plume 7 that disturb the earth radiative balance by scattering the incoming solar shortwave (SW) radiation, 8 and absorption of infrared (IR) radiation (Robock, 2000; Stenchikov et al. 1998; Santer et al. 2014). 9 This disruption of the Earth's energy budget by volcanic forcing can persist for two to three years 10 (Robock, 2000), contingent on the lifespan of stratospheric aerosols and may extend longer due to 11 effects on stratospheric water vapor (Joshi and Shine, 2003; Soden et al. 2002).

12 Although the volcanic radiative forcing has short life, its large spatial scale and magnitude 13 make it an important driver of climate variability as it strongly interacts with Earth's radiative 14 Energy budget (Timmreck et al. 2009; Timmreck, 2012). Therefore, strong eruptions cause a 15 reduction in the global surface temperature that can remain for several years following these events, 16 resulting in variations in ocean temperature, sea level and circulation changes that can last for 17 decades (Church et al. 2005; Stenchikov et al. 2009; Dogar et al. 2020; Dogar and Stenchikov, 18 2013). This makes them an important part of the climate system, regardless of their short 19 stratospheric lifetime (Robock, 2000; Timmreck, 2012). It is, however, challenging to untangle the 20 volcanic impact of individual eruptions at regional scales due to multiple coincident climate 21 phenomena, such as the monsoon circulation and other interfering climate variability modes whose 22 regional climate impacts could be much higher compared to global mean variations caused by the 23 eruption (Liu et al. 2022; Dogar et al. 2017; Fischer et al. 2007; Fasullo et al. 2019; Singh et al. 24 2020; Tejedor et al. 2021; Zuo et al. 2021).

25 While the recent volcanic events (e.g., El Chichon and Pinatubo) have been well observed 26 (and forcing effects are well replicated in models), the limited observational data for past volcanic 27 eruptions leads to large uncertainties and biases in the aerosol particle size, hemispheric 28 distributions, and radiative forcing estimates (Stenchikov et al. 2004; Santer et al. 2014; Toohey et 29 al. 2011; Raible et al. 2016; Marshall et al. 2021, 2022). The latest climate models with interactive 30 volcanic aerosols have been shown to effectively simulate the aerosol loading, size distribution and 31 associated climate response following the Pinatubo eruption (Mills et al. 2016; Niemeier et al. 32 2010; Mills et al. 2017). However, very less data exists to constrain other eruptions of different 33 extents, latitudes, and seasonality. Several recent model studies suggested that the eruption latitude, 34 altitude, strength, and season of occurrence, could induce differences in the aerosol evolution, 35 loading (e.g., Toohey et al. 2011; Kravitz & Robock, 2011), and climate responses (Zhuo et al. 36 2021). The differences in radiative impacts of volcanic eruptions that occurred at different latitudes

1 (i.e., tropical and extratropical eruptions) are clearly emphasized (Haywood et al. 2013; Pausata et 2 al. 2015; Liu et al. 2018; Zhuo et al. 2021). Aerosols produced from strong tropical eruptions often 3 surround the entire globe, whereas aerosols from mid-to-high-latitude eruptions are confined to the 4 hemisphere of eruption (Oman et al. 2005; Kravitz & Robock, 2011). Even for tropical eruptions, 5 the dispersion depends on the phase of internal variability such as the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation 6 (Trepte et al. 1993; Jones et al. 2016). Simulations also suggest that an eruption similar to Pinatubo 7 occurring in northern winter will cause significantly greater global cumulative aerosol loading than 8 a similar eruption occurring at any other time of the year (e.g., Stevenson et al. 2017; Toohey et al. 9 2011; Stoffel et al. 2015). Similarly, for the Northern Hemisphere (NH) high-latitude eruptions of 10 similar magnitude, the largest aerosol loading is obtained for eruptions occurring in summer than in 11 winter (Toohey et al. 2011; Kravitz & Robock, 2011). This strongly suggests that aerosol size, 12 distribution, lifetime, and accompanying climatic effects appear to be dependent on the 13 meteorological state, the eruption season, the latitude, and strength of eruption.

14 Numerous model simulations, observations and hemispheric temperature reconstructions 15 have been used so far to evaluate the climatic impacts of the major volcanic events. However, 16 volcanically induced cooling derived from model simulations is effectively much higher than the 17 cooling visualized in reconstructions (Mann et al. 2012; Büntgen et al. 2014; Stoffel et al. 2015) 18 with some exceptions following El Chichon and Pinatubo tropical eruptions where strong regional 19 cooling is seen in observation compared to high-resolution atmospheric model (HiRAM) 20 simulations (e.g., Dogar et al. 2017). It suggests that either the modeled forcing is unrealistically 21 high or the proxies underestimate cooling (Anchukaitis et al. 2012; Mann et al. 2012; Stoffel et al. 22 2015; Dee and Steiger, 2022) and/or the model cooling response is overestimated (Chylek et al. 23 2020; Stoffel et al. 2015; Marshall et al. 2021), perhaps due to a weak response in the Arctic 24 Oscillation and hence a lack of winter warming (Stenchikov et al. 2006; Marshall et al. 2009; 25 Driscoll et al. 2012; Zambri et al. 2017). Alternatively, support for excessive model forcing is 26 indicated by the results of numerous studies showing that there is no general relationship between 27 the extent of forcing and the global mean temperature response (e.g., Timmreck et al. 2009; Bader 28 et al. 2020). This is related with the microphysical processes of volcanic aerosols including its 29 interaction with volcanic ash that effectively limit the impact of strong volcanic eruptions (Zhu et 30 al. 2021). In particular, while considering past eruptions, fixing the concentration and size 31 distribution of aerosols does not give a realistic and accurate simulation of the eruption effects, and 32 therefore, its use can lead to inaccurate estimations of volcanism (Stoffel et al. 2015; Marshall et al. 33 2021). Santer et al. (2014) and other studies (Dogar and Sato, 2019) suggest that agreement with 34 observations can be improved if the contribution due to internal variability (e.g., ENSO and NAO) 35 is accounted for. Disparities in model responses to volcanism and their inconsistency with 36 observations and proxy-based reconstructions could also be accounted for by the contribution of volcanic ash and its interaction with Sulfur Dioxide as volcanic input data used in models is missing
this contribution (Zhu et al. 2021).

3 Above discussion strongly suggests that, regardless of having true estimations of observed 4 impacts particularly for recent massive eruptions, effective modeling of the climate responses or 5 impacts (with true magnitude) of past volcanic events remains challenging and demanding work for 6 climate models partly because of the limited accessibility of precise input forcing data required for 7 correct estimation of radiative forcing even before taking into account model errors (Marshall et al. 8 2021). Therefore, precise information for past and future eruptions about the time of eruption (i.e., 9 eruption season), latitude, particle microphysics, and size distribution is highly needed to test 10 whether models can realistically replicate accurate response magnitudes (e.g., Zhuo et al. 2021; Zhu 11 et al. 2021; Marshall et al. 2021).

12 4. Assessment of Volcano-ENSO Linkages using Climate Proxy Records

13 Several climate proxy datasets are available that detail the dates and strength of past historical 14 eruptions (e.g., Sigl et al. 2015; Gao et al. 2008; Crowley et al. 2008). We noticed that these 15 datasets differ in inception of eruption dates (i.e., starting year). This is because the volcanic dates 16 in Sigl et al. (2015) and Gao et al. (2008) datasets correspond to global estimates of volcanic 17 radiative forcing, while for the case of Crowley et al. (2008), volcanic dates correspond to the 18 tropical estimates (averaged over 30°S-30°N) of radiative forcing. It is believed that the volcanic 19 eruptions contribute greatly to climate variability, but quantifying these contributions is limited due 20 to inconsistencies in the timing of volcanic aerosol loading and subsequent cooling signatures. 21 Earlier studies have revealed that ENSO's response and sensitivity to eruptions over the past 22 millennium appears to be significant, while important uncertainties remain (e.g. Raible et al. 2016; 23 Dee et al. 2020; Hernandez et al. 2020; Zhu et al. 2021, 2022). Some studies suggest that a strong 24 El Niño-like SST anomalous pattern occurs during eruption year that could persist for subsequent 25 years, as shown in the observed 350 years (1649-2000) record (Adams et al. 2003). Contrary to this, 26 other studies propose that tropical volcanism may trigger a La Niña-like response, particularly at 27 longer lead times (Anchukaitis et al. 2010; Li et al. 2013; Maher et al. 2015; Pausata et al. 2015). 28 There is also inconsistency among paleo-reconstructions regarding the magnitude representing 29 increased likelihood of an El Niño episode in the years that follows major eruption events 30 (Stevenson et al. 2017). We noticed that various paleoclimate studies are conducted so far to 31 reconstruct ENSO variability of past events and mostly they show varying results. For instance, Dee 32 and Steiger, (2022) tested the volcanism-ENSO linkage in the past 2000 years long records of Paleo 33 Hydrodynamics Data Assimilation (PHYDA) product and noticed a weak tropical Pacific response 34 following large tropical volcanism resembling to El Niño. These results were also not significant (at 35 95% confidence) when evaluated using superposed epoch analysis (SEA) and self-organizing maps. 36 Significant results emerged when probability density functions were employed, suggesting that

1 SEA approach (i.e., composite averaging) seems less sensitive to capture an ENSO response in the 2 presence of strong internal variability. Moreover, inconsistencies were noticed in magnitudes and 3 spatial patterns between climate models and PHYDA regarding ENSO-volcano linkage. This study 4 also suggests that current climate models apparently overestimate ENSO response to volcanism. We 5 further noticed that the paleo-reconstructions also disagree on the magnitude of increased likelihood 6 of an El Niño episode during the years that follows major eruptions. Moreover, due to the lack of 7 observational data for comparison, it is impossible to find the best ENSO reconstruction. A careful 8 analysis of these reconstruction studies reveal that the difference in reconstruction methods and 9 input source data resulted in each study producing different ENSO reconstructions and hence 10 different conclusions (Nicholls, 1988; Tierney et al. 2015; Lee et al. 2013; Braganza et al. 2009; 11 Emile-Geav et al. 2013a, 2013b; Dee and Steiger, 2022).

12 Fadnavis et al. (2021) showed that during 1871-2016 period, 49% (26 out of 53) of the records 13 of moderate to large tropical eruptions were found to represent El Niño conditions within two years 14 after the eruptions that apparently caused droughts over India as they affected Indian monsoon 15 through weakening of Hadley circulation consistent with the earlier findings of Fadnavis et al. 16 (2019) and Khudri et al. (2017). McGregor et al. (2020) used around 17 reconstructions of ENSO 17 variability, and looked for a consistent response (Table 1). The significance of ENSO response in 18 these reconstructions was computed using Monte-Carlo sampling approach. This study found that 19 around 70% (12 out of 17) reconstructions produced a strong El Niño-like response during the 20 eruption year, whilst none produced a La Niña-like response. It also found that in about two years 21 after the event, 47% (8 out of 17) reconstructions produced a significant (above the 95% level) La 22 Niña-like response. This is likely relevant to the dynamics behind the lagged La Niña-like response 23 in the model analysis of Maher et al. (2015). Thus, these results support the idea that strong 24 volcanic eruption may potentially generate warmer SST in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific 25 region, followed by a La Niña-like response (one year later) due to the ENSO oscillatory nature. 26 Using last millennium reanalysis (LMR) and data assimilation framework, Zhu et al (2022) showed 27 no significant ENSO response to volcanism during the eruption years (i.e., year 0 and year +1; 28 Figure 4). This is something that apparently cannot be solved by more examination of our existing 29 paleoclimatic knowledge. Thus, further modeling experimentation and analysis is needed to better 30 understand the contribution of dynamic modulations and proxy-related problems in making 31 variations across reconstructions.

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5. Assessment of Volcano-ENSO Linkages Using Modeling Studies

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5.1. Tropical Volcanic Eruptions

1 There are uncertainties in predicting the impact of volcanic eruptions on the occurrence of El Niño 2 Southern Oscillation using models, since the influence of tropical explosive volcanism is not 3 uniformly simulated within models and large ensembles are needed to isolate forced responses from 4 internal variability. Numerical modeling experiments conducted with selected individual models 5 have mimicked the El Niño response (e.g., MacCracken and Luther, 1984; Ohba et al. 2013; 6 Fadnavis et al. 2021). Early experiments conducted using coupled models of intermediate 7 complexity produce a higher likelihood of an El Niño-like condition or the happening of El Niño 8 events after major eruptions, showing agreement with climate proxies and observational estimates 9 (Mann et al. 2005; Emile-Geay et al. 2008). The simplicity of the intermediate complexity coupled 10 model (e.g., Zebiak & Cane, 1987) and the uniform volcanic forcing used in these simple models, 11 warrant that ocean dynamics (i.e., the dynamical thermostat process) is the only process by which 12 the forcing may project on ENSO. Nevertheless, the role of the dynamical thermostat has been 13 argued in several recent studies (e.g., Pokarel and Sikka, 2013; Gregory et al. 2016; Adam et al. 14 2003 2016; Noh et al. 2017; Fadnavis et al. 2019). Further studies, using coupled and more complex 15 general circulation models (GCMs), suggest several ways of volcanic forcing projection onto ENSO 16 (e.g., McGregor & Timmermann, 2011; Predybaylo et al. 2017, 2020; Pausata et al. 2020; Fadnavis 17 et al. 2021). The outcomes of some of these coupled model studies imply that volcanic forcing may 18 induce an initial cooling in the equatorial Pacific region (Zanchettin et al. 2012; McGregor & 19 Timmermann, 2011). However, this initial cooling apparently being direct radiative response of 20 volcanic radiative forcing, is dynamically different from a La Niña event (e.g., Stevenson et al. 21 2017). Even with the initial instantaneous cooling response to volcanism, dynamical variables 22 suggested El Niño-like anomalous patterns emerging about a year after the peak of the eruption 23 (e.g., McGregor & Timmermann, 2011). Evaluation of historical coupled GCM simulations 24 performed for Phase 3 and Phase 5 of Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) initially 25 proposed that volcanism and ENSO linkage across CMIP models is somehow weak (e.g., 26 Stenchikov et al. 2006; Driscoll et al. 2012; Ding et al. 2014), which is consistent with recent proxy 27 studies (e.g., Dee et al. 2020; Dee and Steiger, 2022). However, numerous modeling studies 28 conducted using CMIP5 models suggest that a strong volcanic eruption induces an El Niño-like 29 mean response in the Pacific Ocean, suggesting an increased likelihood of El Niño events, that 30 persist for about two years after reaching the peak optical depth of the eruption (Figure 5). The El 31 Niño-like anomalous response of the equatorial Pacific in the year following a major tropical 32 volcanic eruption has also been reported in other modeling studies (see, e.g., Ohba et al. 2013; 33 Stevenson et al. 2017; Predybaylo et al. 2017; Maher et al. 2015; Khodri et al. 2017; Fadnavis et al. 34 2021; Yang et al. 2022). Nevertheless, some recent modeling studies based on CMIP5 (Xing et al. 35 2020), Paleoclimate Modeling Inter-comparison Project (PMIP) Phase 3, PMIP3 (Chai et al. 2020), 36 and CMIP6 (Liu et al. 2020) failed to generate an El Niño anomalous response in the first post1 eruption winter and long range forecast studies continue to suggest that at least some ENSO events 2 were already set to occur, irrespective of volcanic forcing (Menegoz et al. 2018).

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Coupled Climate models may also be employed to study climatic responses to volcanism 4 with varying strength, locations, and the Pacific Ocean pre-eruption initial state to help understand 5 the dynamics of ENSO modulation (Ohba et al. 2013; Lim et al. 2016; Khodri et al. 2017; 6 McGregor & Timmermann, 2011; Stevenson et al. 2017; Predybaylo et al. 2017; Fadnavis et al. 7 2021). Some studies initially claimed that an eruption of Pinatubo size or larger is needed to 8 increase the probability of a post-volcano El Niño occurring (e.g. Emile-Geay et al. 2008). A 9 similar threshold of magnitude was also recently presented by Iwi et al. (2012) and Lim et al. 10 (2016), whose model results showed that an El Niño-like response to large tropical eruptions occurs only after a threshold of 15 W/m² (i.e., about two or three times greater than Pinatubo). El Niño-like 11 12 post-volcanic conditions are also recently reported following strong tropical eruptions of the size of 13 Tambora 1815 (about a full order of magnitude larger than Pinatubo), which was enhanced for 14 future climate under RCP-8.5 climate scenario because of, enhanced moisture transport (i.e., ocean-15 land thermal gradient mechanism) and associated higher sensitivity to monsoon system (Yang et al. 16 2022). However, above results appear to contrast with the CMIP5 multimodel response, which 17 suggests that the relatively smaller eruptions of Pinatubo size could trigger an El Niño-like 18 response after about a year following the eruption peak (Maher et al. 2015; Fadnavis et al. 2021; 19 Khodri et al. 2017). The 2011 Nabro eruption (erupted near the southern Red Sea region) was 20 smaller than Pinatubo, however, it also produced an El Niño-like response that persisted for two 21 years following the eruption that weakened the Indian summer monsoon and caused droughts 22 (Fadnavis et al. 2021). Part of these differences are likely to be associated with differing model 23 background states and biases, but may also be associated with experimental design (e.g., volcanic 24 events ensemble members used in the composite). Consideration of water vapor feedback in the 25 model during the simulation of eruption events could also play important role to account for such 26 differences (Soden et al. 2002). The initial state (i.e., ocean preconditioning) of the Pacific has also 27 proved to be very important (Predybaylo et al. 2017, 2020; Khodri et al. 2017). The dependence of 28 ENSO's response to Pacific Ocean preconditioning for a Pinatubo-size eruption has been 29 investigated by Predybaylo et al. (2017) using GFDL-CM2.1 coupled model, which reported that 30 relative to an unperturbed simulation, an El Niño-like statistically significant warming appears for 31 all ocean preconditioning states, except for a La Niña initial state introduced in the Pacific. A 32 weaker El Niño condition happens following an El Niño initial state in the equatorial eastern Pacific 33 (EP) compared to a central Pacific (CP) initial state. This suggests that initial states associated to 34 different ENSO flavors (i.e., CP or EP ENSO) are also important as their global and regional 35 impacts especially on the Hadley and walker circulations and associated impacts on monsoon 36 system is largely different (Dogar et al. 2019; Taschetto et al., 2020; Ma et al., 2022). Predybaylo et

1 al. (2017) and Khodri et al. 2017 further suggested that Pinatubo-size volcanic events cause an El 2 Niño-like warming pattern under all projected scenarios that tend to lengthen El Niño events, 3 shorten La Niña events, and produce anomalous warming signal in the tropical central Pacific 4 Ocean during neutral preconditioning. Predybaylo et al. (2017) also examined the effect of the season of the eruption, and reported a stronger El Niño-like response for eruptions occurring in the 5 6 boreal summer compared to spring and winter eruptions. These findings suggest that more research 7 is warranted to systematically disentangle the discrepancy between model results attributable to 8 model differences and/or the experimental methods.

9 Numerous dynamical mechanisms have been identified in CGCM based idealized studies 10 of volcanic effects to elucidate how the zonally symmetric volcanic forcing can interact on ENSO 11 mode. In all cases, it is assumed that the Pacific basin Bjerknes feedback has been initiated 12 (Bjerknes, 1969), following the initial projection on the ENSO mode, which helps to intensify the 13 initial SST anomaly. The El Niño induced by the tropical volcanism in these models is related to 14 several suggested mechanisms: the oceanic dynamic thermostat mechanism (Predybaylo et al. 2017; 15 Ohba et al. 2013), the equaterward movement of the Intertropical Convergence Zone caused by 16 decreased evaporation on cloudless subtropical regions (Haywood et al. 2013; Lim et al. 2016), the 17 western land-ocean temperature anomaly induced by thermal contrast (Predybaylo et al. 2017), and 18 the westerly response to the suppressed West African monsoon (WAM) and warm pool 19 precipitation (Khodri et al. 2017; Chai et al. 2020). Two other factors may also influence the 20 simulation of El Niño-like responses after tropical volcanic eruptions: the initial condition of the 21 ocean (e.g. Menegoz et al. 2018) and the strength of the eruption. It is difficult to replicate an El 22 Niño when the initial ocean condition is already in the El Niño peak phase before the eruption (Liu 23 et al. 2018). Furthermore, the volcanic eruption must be strong enough to stimulate an El Niño 24 (Emile-Geay et al. 2008; Lim et al. 2016). The details of these mechanisms that allow ENSO 25 modulation by volcanic forcing (i.e., subtropical wind stress curl, dynamical thermostat, and land 26 temperature changes) can be seen in McGregor et al. (2020) and Zhu et al. (2021).

27 Liu et al. (2018) performed a millennium volcanic sensitivity experiment using CESM 28 model version 1 (CESM1) forced with volcanic reconstructions of Gao et al. (2008), for 1500 years 29 (i.e., 501 to 2000 AD), to identify the ENSO response to tropical and extratropical eruptions. CESM 30 has been used effectively to investigate volcano-ENSO linkages (Stevenson et al. 2017; Otto-31 Bliesner et al. 2016). A long control simulation (2000 years) was performed as a reference where all 32 external forcings were fixed at the values of year 1850. Using this long control run, a forced 33 volcanic simulation is carried out for the period of 501 to 2000 AD, keeping the external forcing at 34 the same level as used in the control run except that the reconstruction of volcanic aerosols 35 spanning 501 to 2000 AD was added as a variable driving force (Gao et al. 2008). During the 36 simulated 1500 years, there were 25 tropical, 16 NH, and 13 SH volcanoes. In these sensitivity

1 experiments, it is noticed that, compared to the internal El Niño in the control run (Figure 6), the 2 shift from El Niño to La Niña is quicker for the tropical volcanic-induced El Niño. The negative 3 NINO3 index emerges early in May for this forced El Niño mode, which only appears in July for 4 the internal mode in the control run. The La Niña following the El Niño for the volcanic-forced 5 mode is also stronger than the purely internal ENSO. The easterly anomalous wind over the western 6 Pacific appears in May after the El Niño for the internal mode, while it appears early in January and 7 is stronger for the eruption forced mode. Since the volcanic forcing could be weak during this El 8 Niño-La Niña transition time, which is the second year after the eruptions, this quick transition after 9 the tropical volcanic-induced El Niño is a dynamically driven, oscillatory response to the preceding 10 El Niño. These results resemble the results of Maher et al. (2015) who analyzed CMIP5 based 11 models and showed a La Niña-like response couple years after the large tropical eruptions.

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5.2. Extratropical Volcanic Eruptions

13 Much modeling work has been done on the impacts of tropical volcanism, especially their role in 14 reducing monsoonal precipitation due to their strong impact on the ascending branch of Hadley Cell 15 and associated equatorward shifting of the Intertropical Convergence Zone, as well as strong 16 linkage to ENSO dynamics (Mass and Portman 1989; McCracken and Luther, 1984; Joseph and 17 Zeng, 2011; Haywood et al. 2013; Dogar et al. 2017; Dogar and Sato 2019; Fadnavis et al. 2021). 18 However, despite the strong sensitivity of ENSO variability to eruptions, very less model studies 19 are conducted so far to examine the impacts of extratropical eruptions occurring in the Northern and 20 Southern Hemispheres (i.e., NH and SH) (Stevenson et al. 2016, 2017; Liu et al. 2018; Zuo et al. 21 2018; Pausata et al. 2015, 2016). Extratropical volcanic eruptions are less studied than tropical 22 eruptions, since their radiative forcings were considered hemispheric only, as aerosols were 23 confined to the eruption hemisphere rather than the global. Their hemispheric TOA radiative 24 forcing can shift the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) towards the warmer hemisphere 25 (Haywood et al. 2013). This is consistent with earlier studies that have highlighted the potential 26 regional impact of large extratropical eruptions on the amplitude of the Asian monsoons (Oman et 27 al. 2005; Liu et al. 2022) and rainfall in Africa (Oman et al. 2006, Haywood et al 2013). Recent 28 studies, however, have shown the possible global impacts of extratropical volcanism through their 29 impacts on ENSO and/or oceanic circulation (e.g., Pausata et al. 2015, 2016; Stevenson et al. 2016; 30 Liu et al. 2018; Zuo et al. 2018). Since, ocean integrates the volcanic signal and responds on a wide 31 range of time scales (Stenchikov et al. 2009; Pausata et al. 2015; Dogar et al. 2020), therefore, the 32 modulation of ocean circulation by extratropical eruptions allows their effects to last for decades.

For extratropical NH eruptions, models simulate a trend towards enhanced El Niño occurrence in the boreal winter after the eruption but differ on whether El Niño–like or La Niña– like states are expected in the second winter (Pausata et al. 2015; Zuo et al. 2018; Stevenson et al.

1 2016). An inclination towards a La Niña-like response was identified one year after an extratropical 2 SH eruption (Stevenson et al. 2016), suggesting a rebound of El Niño-like conditions, as La Niña 3 conditions normally follow El Niño states (Ohba & Ueda, 2009; Kessler, 2002; Okumura & Deser, 4 2010). Additional modeling studies and research is needed to verify the proposed dynamic 5 processes and to verify whether such influences of the initial conditions are sufficient to explain the 6 completeness of this response. In the CESM model, the response to SH eruptions appear almost 7 opposite to the response to NH eruptions during the year of eruption. Which is, the SH eruption 8 events cause a northward ITCZ shift together with a strong initial cooling that peaks in the post-9 eruption boreal winter (Haywood et al. 2013; McGregor et al. 2020). However, the findings of 10 Stevenson et al. (2016) suggest that this response is unlikely to have dynamics consistent with the 11 La Niña episode based on the analysis of the complete spatial pattern of SST anomalies (Stevenson 12 et al. 2016). A rebound to neutral ENSO conditions ensues, which roughly last for the next one 13 year, during which further cooling occurs in the tropical Pacific.

14 The millennium volcanic sensitivity study by Liu et al. (2018) showed that after the NH eruptions 15 (Figure 7a), the westerly wind anomalies are excited via the Bjerknes feedback to the south of the 16 equator in the first northern winter over the Pacific, and warm SSTs initiate to develop from the 17 eastern Pacific after the northern spring related with westerly wind anomalies. The warm SSTs also 18 initiate to develop in the Eastern Pacific related with the equatorial westerly wind anomalies since 19 the first northern winter after the tropical eruptions (Figure 7b). After SH eruptions, anticyclonic 20 wind anomalies dominate in the Southeast Pacific (Figure 7c) associated with cold sea surface 21 temperature anomalies. It has been shown that compared to westerly wind (and associated surface 22 current) anomalies and their related descending in the central to eastern Pacific, one year after the 23 NH or the tropical eruptions, the easterly wind (and surface current) anomalies and the associated 24 ascending dominate the eastern Pacific one year after the SH eruptions (Figure 8). Thus, this 25 ascending wind, via the Bjerknes feedback (Bjerknes, 1969), inhibits warm SST anomalies to 26 develop in the eastern Pacific.

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28 One major mechanism has been identified that potentially contributes as an instant ENSO response 29 to volcanic events occurring in extratropics, that lasts for about one year, is the shift of the ITCZ. 30 Extratropical volcanic eruption events are characterized by the spread of sulfate aerosol, limited to 31 the hemisphere in which the volcanic eruption occurs. It is commonly known that asymmetric 32 interhemispheric forcing drives the ITCZ away from the hemisphere being cooled by volcanism 33 (Kang et al. 2008; Dogar et al. 2017; Haywood et al. 2013; Schneider et al. 2014). This has been 34 shown in coupled model studies of extratropical eruptions, for instance, simulations of the 1783 35 Laki eruption in Iceland (Pausata et al. 2015) and entire millennium simulations of extratropical 36 eruptions (Stevenson et al. 2017; Colose et al. 2016). The migration of the ITCZ towards the

1 equator, in response to a NH eruption, tends to favor the commencing of El Niño events (Pausata et 2 al. 2015; Pausata et al. 2020) although more work is needed to accurately estimate the change in 3 occurrence frequency. Since surface easterly winds are weakest in the immediate vicinity of the 4 ITCZ, this migration to the equator implies a weakening of easterly winds along the equator in the 5 central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. Through the Bjerknes feedback mechanism (Bjerknes, 6 1969), this weakening of the trade winds result in a decrease in the temperature contrast between 7 east and west in the tropical Pacific, that favors the development of an El Niño-like anomaly. These 8 El Niño-like anomalies could also be affected by the ocean preconditioning (see section 5 for 9 details), that is, pre-existing or background ENSO state: a stronger El Niño-like response develops 10 when the preexisting ocean state is La Niña rather than El Niño (Pausata et al. 2016).

11 The ITCZ's potential role in inciting ENSO response in the first winter following the 12 extratropical NH eruptions has also been proposed by Stevenson et al. (2016), who show the 13 migration of the ITCZ to the equator after the eruption and subsequent development of El Niño-like 14 conditions. In other earlier studies that examined the impacts of extratropical volcanic forcing on 15 climate (Highwood & Stevenson, 2003; Haywood et al., 2013; Oman et al. 2005, 2006), an analysis 16 of the ENSO response was not feasible due to the lacking of a fully coupled atmosphere-ocean 17 model and the consequent failure to recognize coupled feedbacks. However, by using the coupled 18 model simulations (fully coupled or coupled with a mixed oceanic layer), Zeng (2003), Oman et al. 19 (2005, 2006), and Haywood et al. (2013) showed a suppressing of the Asian and/or African 20 monsoon after the NH eruptions, suggesting a displacement of the ITCZ towards south that 21 provides suitable conditions for the development of El Niño. The study by Zeng (2003), Dogar et al. 22 (2019) further emphasize that the shift of ITCZ and subsequent weakening of monsoon is caused 23 due to El Niño-like SST conditions, which could be related or unrelated to volcanism. This 24 suggests that the ITCZ response to individual forcing (i.e., ENSO or volcanism) or their concurrent 25 ENSO-volcano effect requires specifically designed coupled model sensitivity experiments for 26 better understanding of volcano-ENSO-ITCZ linkage.

27 28

6. Volcano-ENSO Linkage and AMOC Role

29 The intense radiative cooling caused by large tropical volcanic eruptions and allied changes in 30 atmospheric circulation result in colder, saltier and therefore denser upper ocean conditions over 31 convective regions, causing modifications to the oceanic thermohaline circulation (e.g., Otterå et al. 32 2010; Stenchikov et al. 2009; Raible et al. 2016; Dogar et al. 2020). This lets the cold signal to enter 33 into the deep ocean and to substantially affect the global ocean temperature, sea level and heat 34 content for several decades or even longer (Church et al. 2005; Delworth et al. 2005; Gleckler et al. 35 2006; Fasullo et al. 2016), thereby protracting the recovery of the climate system from volcanic 36 perturbations. A statistically significant Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC)

1 response after strong tropical volcanic eruption of Krakatau 1883 that persisted for several decades 2 with associated northward enhancement in heat transport was reported in a study conducted using 3 Met Office Unified Coupled Model, HadCM3 (Iwi et al. 2012). Similar to tropical volcanism, 4 AMOC responds significantly to NH extratropical eruptions as well, predominantly due to a strong 5 post-eruption ocean cooling that could last for few decades (e.g., Pausata et al. 2015). Numerous 6 studies (both modeling and observational) proposed that AMOC forced changes could modulate the 7 amplitude of ENSO (e.g., Dong & Sutton, 2002; Zhang & Delworth, 2005; Sutton et al. 2007; 8 Timmermann et al. 2007; Pausata et al. 2015; Levine et al. 2017, 2018; Otto-Bliesner et al. 2016; 9 Orihuela et al. 2022). Using a global climate model, Orihuela et al. (2022) showed that forced 10 AMOC changes (i.e., slowdown or collapse under anthropogenic forcing) accelerates the Pacific 11 trade winds and Walker circulation that results in enhanced subsidence and cooling over the east 12 Pacific leading to a La Nina-like condition. The reverse is true for volcanic-induced changes in 13 AMOC (i.e., strengthening under volcanism) that would result in warming over east Pacific that 14 leading to an El Niño-like condition. This relationship is believed to be essentially due to large-15 scale changes in atmospheric circulation caused by AMOC-induced tropical Atlantic SST gradients, 16 modulating the tropical Pacific, and ENSO (Ruprich-Robert et al. 2017; Polo et al. 2014; Dong et 17 al. 2006; Orihuela et al. 2022). In addition, on a multi-decade scale, thermocline signals related with 18 AMOC strength can also be transferred from the North Atlantic to the tropical Pacific via ocean 19 waves (Timmermann et al. 2005). These modeled oceanic inter-basin relationships denoting that 20 AMOC strong variability results in some variability in the ENSO could be physically reasonable 21 (Atwood, 2015; Timmermann et al. 2007; Ding et al. 2014). However, there are limited 22 observational data to support this oceanic inter-basin ENSO modulation (Atwood, 2015). With 23 regard to extratropical eruptions, Pausata et al. (2015) examined the ENSO modulation following a 24 volcanic event under modern conditions, and indicated that ENSO variance increases with an 25 increase in AMOC and vice versa. The increased variability of ENSO during periods of strong 26 AMOC is believed to be related to the flattening and shallowing of the thermocline in the equatorial 27 Pacific, which enhances the Bjerknes feedback (Russell & Gnanadesikan, 2014; Pausata et al. 28 2015). More research is needed to investigate the relationship between ENSO variability and 29 AMOC after volcanic eruptions to better quantify long-term climate impacts beyond the lifespan of 30 injected stratospheric aerosols.

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7. Role of Ocean Preconditioning, Eruption Location, Seasonality, and Magnitude.

Two mechanisms, land-ocean temperature contrast (LOTC) and the oceanic dynamic thermostat (ODT) are largely proposed to explain volcano-ENSO linkage predominantly for low latitude tropical eruptions (e.g., Pokarel and Sikka, 2013; Gregory et al. 2016; Adam et al. 2003 2016; Noh et al. 2017; Fadnavis et al. 2019; 2021). Both these mechanisms can activate westerly wind anomalies that consequently lead to El Niño-like SST response following strong volcanic 1 event. The LOTC is based on the heat capacity difference of the land and the ocean; the volcanic-2 induced temperature contrast between the western Pacific Ocean (WP) and the maritime continent 3 is thought to weaken the trade winds. The ODT relies on the ability of ocean to moderate the SST 4 response to radiative forcing more efficiently in the equatorial region of the eastern Pacific (EP), 5 leading to temperature contrasts between the WP and the EP. Since the ODT is connected with the 6 force of upwelling of equatorial ocean, its strength is closely related to preconditioning of ENSO 7 (i.e., initial state) and, therefore, could also be the cause for divergent strength of the El Niño 8 response following volcanic eruptions.

9 A study using the CESM climate model indicated another mechanism attributing to a 10 stronger El Niño-like response following the tropical volcanism, associated with post-volcanic El 11 Niño excitation via wind stress curl. This El Niño excitation appears due to post-eruption increased 12 equatorial pacific surface cooling and associated increased heat advection (Stevenson et al. 2017). 13 Khodri et al. (2017) analyzed the CMIP5 simulations along with idealized experiments conducted 14 using the Institute Pierre Simone Laplace coupled climate model (with and without volcano) to 15 understand the key mechanisms of ENSO-volcano linkage. This study linked an El Niño-like 16 response to a volcanic-induced abrupt African continent, which lessened the West-African monsoon 17 and produced westerly wind anomalies in the Western Pacific (Khodri et al. 2017; Fadnavis et al. 18 2021). A study based on the Norwegian Earth System Model (NorESM) examined the ENSO 19 response to asymmetrically distributed volcanic plume after the tropical volcanic eruptions (Pausata 20 et al. 2016; Pausata et al. 2020). It emphasizes that the leading response mechanisms are related to 21 extratropical circulation changes including shift of the Pacific jet and the changes in the cyclonic 22 surface pressure anomalies in the Pacific mid-latitude region, while the shift of the ITCZ has a 23 lesser role. Nevertheless, for high-latitude eruptions, it has been suggested that an explosive 24 volcanic eruption occurring in the Northern Hemisphere (NH) shift the ITCZ equatorward and thus 25 produce an El Niño-like response (Pausata et al. 2016). However, the variations between ENSO 26 responses to massive volcanism and underlying mechanisms reported in these studies could stem 27 from the inadequate sampling for temporal composites and ensembles. Hence, while investigating 28 the ENSO response to volcanism, the sampling paradigm should essentially account for the 29 following aspects:

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a. An ENSO onset (or ENSO preconditioning) that is connected with a set of atmospheric and
oceanic conditions before the eruption (Predybaylo et al. 2017, 2020; Pausata et al. 2016; Marshall
et al. 2022). These initial conditions are known as Neutral, El Niño, or La Niña starts (i.e., onsets),
and in the nonexistence of external forcing, lead to corresponding neutral "normal", negative, or
positive ENSO years. The response of tropical Pacific relies strongly on ocean preconditioning
irrespective of eruption type (i.e., high-latitude or low-latitude). For instance, Normal or El Niño

inceptions are more likely to be interfered by low-latitude eruptions than a La Niña onset
(Predybaylo et al. 2017, 2020; Ohba et al. 2013). Moreover, CP-type El Niño onsets may respond
more intensely than EP-type El Niño onsets (Predybaylo et al. 2017). For instance, global and
regional impacts of different ENSOs (e.g., CP and EP-type) especially on the Hadley and Walker
circulations and associated impacts on monsoon system are largely different (Dogar et al. 2019;
Taschetto et al., 2020; Ma et al., 2022).

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8 b. Timing of volcanic eruption related to the seasonal cycle or ENSO type (Stevenson et al. 2017; 9 Predybaylo et al. 2017; 2020) that may mask strong sensitivity of the ENSO response. Modeling 10 studies show evidences that ENSO type and its response to volcanism is sensitive to the timing and 11 seasonality of volcanic forcing. It is further found that the ENSO response is more robust in 12 summer than in winter (Predybaylo et al. 2017; 2020; Wittenberg et al. 2014), which could be 13 explained by the widely known boreal spring (Feb-May) predictability barrier of ENSO event 14 (McPhaden, 2003; Lai et al. 2018; Ren et al. 2018). This ENSO spring barrier suggests that the 15 ENSO prediction skill is significantly reduced during the boreal spring, because of the tendency of 16 the ENSO episode to shift towards El Niño and La Niña phases decay after their usual winter peak. 17 It is noticed that the coupled climate models face problems in predicting boreal winter tropical 18 Pacific SST when forecasts start in boreal spring (Lai et al. 2018; Zheng et al. 2010). Since volcanic 19 eruptions can occur at any time of the year (Mason, 2004), it is therefore important to separately 20 examine the impacts of volcanic eruptions occurring at different times.

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c. Magnitude of volcanic activity that is responsible for ENSO response strength. The stronger the
volcanic eruption, the more significant (or more likely) the ENSO response may be (Predybaylo et
al. 2017; 2020). For example, the Tambora eruption (three times larger than the Pinatubo), would
cool the surface of the EP more within the first year, and then induce a warmer El Niño in the
second year than a Pinatubo-sized eruption (Emile-Geay, 2008; Ohba et al. 2013; Stevenson et al.
2017; Predybaylo et al. 2017; McGregor et al. 2011; Li et al. 2013).

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d. Location of the volcanic eruption, which is responsible for the aerosol plume distribution and lifetime. Though volcanic aerosols are normally globally distributed for most low-latitude eruptions, they may sometimes be trapped in one hemisphere (Pausata et al. 2020), and for highlatitude explosive eruptions are hemispherically distributed (Oman et al. 2005; Schneider et al. 2009; Kravitz and Robock, 2011; Pausata et al. 2020). All these eruption types can cause a significant ENSO response (Liu et al. 2018). However, the sensitivity of ENSO response is less pronounced for high-latitude eruptions than for low-latitude eruption events due to relatively shorter 1 aerosol lifespan and varying interfering response mechanisms (Pausata et al. 2015, 2016; Sun et al.

2 2019; Colose et al. 2016; Stevenson et al. 2016).

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8.

Post-Volcanic Winter Warming and the Role of Internal Climate Variability

4 Volcanic eruptions are believed to affect the Eurasian and North American winter temperatures 5 (Shindell et al. 2004; Stenchikov et al. 2002; Schneider et al. 2009). In the first winter following the 6 1991 eruption of Pinatubo, an increase in surface temperature reaching up to 3 °C was observed on 7 the Eurasian continent, which was attributed to the recovery of global temperature following a 8 volcanic eruption (e.g., Robock, 2002). While this 1991-1992 winter warming pattern could be 9 considered to be triggered by natural climate variability (e.g., Polvani et al. 2019), Eurasian winter 10 warming pattern was also seen in the first NH winter after three other tropical volcanic eruptions 11 (Xing et al. 2020). This post-eruption European warming was also seen in 500-year multi-proxy 12 reconstructions of 15 major tropical eruptions (Fischer et al. 2007). These responses are consistent 13 with a forced volcanic response of the NAO. Some modeling studies have reported the cooling over 14 the Middle East and North Africa after large eruptions, suggesting that it is part of a circulation 15 response of same origin as the winter warming in Eurasia (Robock and Mao, 1992; Robock, 2002; 16 Shindell et al. 2004; Osipov et al. 2016; Dogar et al. 2017; 2019; Dogar, 2020). However, there are 17 only a few studies available that analyzed the underlying possible causes of the seasonal climate 18 variability triggered by volcanic eruptions, that is winter warming over Eurasia and cooling patterns 19 over Middle East and North Africa (MENA) respectively (e.g., Haywood et al. 2013; Dogar et al. 20 2017), so the dynamic feedbacks processes and forced circulation changes still remain poorly 21 understood. The Eurasian winter warming teleconnection is also potentially related to 22 stratosphere-troposphere interaction. It has been shown that a tropical volcanic eruption can 23 directly warm up the lower part of the tropical stratosphere since the aerosol clouds interact and 24 absorb incoming near-infrared (NIR) and outgoing longwave radiation. Volcanic aerosols also 25 deplete polar ozone by affecting ozone photochemistry in stratosphere. As solar radiation is 26 absorbed by ozone in stratosphere, ozone depletion will lead to lower temperatures (Stenchikov et 27 al. 2002) in the polar region. Resultant stratospheric warming at low-latitudes and polar cooling 28 intensify the meridional temperature contrast over the NH, eventuating in a strengthened NH winter 29 polar vortex (Figure 9a). This strengthened polar vortex, potentially warms Eurasia by entrapping 30 tropospheric wave energy (Robock, 2000; Butler et al. 2014; Perlwitz and Graf, 1995; Raible et al. 31 2016). Mostly the CMIP5 (e.g., Xing et al. 2020) as well as CMIP6 models (Liu et al. 2020, Figure 32 9) can simulate this low-latitude stratospheric warming. The strengthened polar vortex, however, is 33 weak in the models compared to the reanalysis (Marshall et al. 2009), posing a challenge for the 34 current simulation of stratospheric teleconnection.

Current GCMs are able to reproduce the direct responses to large tropical eruptions
(Trenberth and Dai, 2007; Iles and Hegerl, 2014; Stevenson et al. 2016; Liu et al. 2016), but they

still lacks in simulating the indirect responses caused by post-volcanic circulation changes, that
could be related or unrelated to volcanism (Ding et al. 2014; Marshall et al. 2009; Driscoll et al.
2012; Maher et al. 2015; Zambri et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2018; Xing et al. 2020; Polvani et al.
2019).

5 There is emerging debate on the volcanic indirect effect caused by circulation changes 6 that apparently produced warming effects in the first two winters following tropical eruptions over 7 Eurasia and North America. Previous studies have linked this Eurasian and North American 8 warming (up to 3°C) of 1982-1983 and 1991-1992 winters to the 1982 El Chichon and 1991 9 Pinatubo eruptions (Robock and Mao, 1992; Xing et al. 2020). Using a 500-year multi-proxy 10 reconstruction, Fischer et al. (2007) also showed this warming pattern that occurred following 11 major tropical eruptions. This eruption-Eurasian-warming has been assumed to be due to post-12 eruption stratosphere-troposphere interaction that caused strengthening of the stratospheric polar 13 vortex and associated positive phase of North Atlantic Oscillation (Stenchikov et al. 2002). 14 However, recent studies have argued that such winter warming may simply be a result of internal 15 variability (Polvani et al. 2019) caused by the positive phase of the Pacific North American pattern 16 (PNA) favored by the ongoing positive ENSO events (El Niños) at the time of the eruptions 17 (Fujiwara et al. 2020; Wunderlich and Mitchel, 2017). The El Niño events could also have favored 18 a North Atlantic Oscillation response through stratospheric pathways (Marshall et al. 2009; Ineson 19 and Scaife, 2009; King et al. 2018) and hence could explain the Eurasian warm winters following 20 El Chichon and Pinatubo eruptions. However, other studies have demonstrated that large volcanic 21 eruptions enhance the probability and strength of El Niño events (Pausata et al. 2015; 2020; 22 Stevenson et al. 2016); hence, volcanic eruptions may still be the initial trigger for the warm winters 23 at high latitudes. No study has hitherto investigated this chain of teleconnections. Moreover, the 24 ENSO-NAO teleconnection itself still remains controversial. Moreover, the initial conditions of 25 both the atmosphere (e.g., Quasi-biennial Oscillation (QBO) phase in the stratosphere) and the 26 ocean (e.g. ENSO) at the time of the eruptions can further complicate the atmospheric circulation 27 response to volcanic eruptions. For example, the studies of Zeng (2003), and Dogar et al. (2017, 28 2019) assessed the ITCZ seasonal shift and subsequent weakening of monsoon following strong 29 ENSO forcing and reported that ITCZ southward shift over the south Asian monsoon belt is caused 30 due to El Niño-like SST conditions, which could be related or unrelated to volcanism. These 31 studies strongly suggest that the ITCZ response to internal or external climate forcings (i.e., ENSO 32 or volcanism respectively) or their concurrent effect through ENSO-volcano linkage requires 33 specifically designed coupled model sensitivity experiments in addition to VolMIP for better 34 understanding of ENSO-volcano linkage. Modeling studies also show a strong negative/positive 35 NAO-like pattern over the Atlantic Ocean following strong El Niño/La Nina forcing (Dogar et al. 36 2017, 2019). This NAO-like North Atlantic ENSO response may largely be caused by ENSO

1 teleconnections through stratospheric pathways (e.g. Ineson and Scaife 2009) or it could simply be 2 an extension of the PNA-like pattern (e.g. Bulić and Kucharski 2012). This negative NAO pattern 3 produces significant impact and induces warm and wet anomalies over Southern Europe extending 4 to Middle East and North African region (Dogar et al. 2017, 2019). Since the origin of winter 5 warming is elusive, therefore, further research is highly needed to disentangle the climatic response 6 to volcanic eruptions and improve our understanding of tropical-to-extratropical teleconnections. 7 For this purpose a set of experiments as shown in the schematic (Figure 10, panel A and B) is 8 proposed. It involves ensemble experiments with and without volcanic forcing (initialized with 9 different ENSO states to see the effect of ocean preconditioning) that could be used to disentangle 10 volcanic direct and indirect circulation changes. Such idealized experimental setup will also help us 11 to figure out the recent controversies whether post-volcanic Eurasian and North American warming 12 is related or unrelated to volcanism (Polvani et al. 2019; Fujiwara et al. 2020).

13

9.

Summary and Discussion

14 Study of volcanism is very important due to their direct radiative and indirect (through their impacts 15 on large scale circulation changes, e.g., ENSO and NAO) climatic effects. A better understanding of 16 volcanism and its impacts on ENSO could help in reliable prediction of the ENSO response to 17 future eruptions, therefore accurate detail of volcano-ENSO linkage is highly needed to determine 18 the actual magnitude of the climatic response controlled by these important forcing factors. Reliable 19 observational data for the volcanic eruptions occurring in the satellite era is available, which 20 provide sufficient details for robust model-based simulation of the volcanic-induced climate 21 response. However, for volcanic eruption events of the past, details of stratospheric aerosol size 22 distribution and eruption timing need to be reconstructed from climate proxy data (Sigl et al. 2015). 23 Although much work has been done so far using PMIP3 and CMIP5 based protocols to improve the 24 reconstructions of the past volcanic forcing (Toohey et al. 2016), clarity about the timing 25 (Stevenson et al. 2017) and latitudinal position (Fasullo et al. 2019) of the volcanic event and its 26 forcing properties is still elusive (Ding et al. 2014; Marshall et al. 2018; Gautier et al. 2019). Hence, 27 to better understand the impact of volcanism on ENSO, it is necessary to have refined 28 reconstructions of both the ENSO variability and volcanic forcing. We note that both the 29 seasonality of the radiative effects of volcanism (e.g., Toohey et al. 2011) and seasonally varying 30 strength of ENSO (e.g., Nicholls, 2008; Lai et al. 2018; Zheng et al. 2010) have the potential to 31 modify the strength of the response of ENSO to volcanism, but these effects have not been explored 32 in detail.

Despite some discrepancies, most of the past studies using paleoclimate proxy data show an
 El Niño-like warming in the eruption year (about 70 % of reconstruction data) when specified with
 consistent volcanic eruptions dates and none of the ENSO reconstructions show a significant La
 Niña-like response. However, some reconstructions (Table 1) that show a significant El Niño-like

1 conditions during eruption year also show significant La Niña-like cooling a few years before or 2 after the volcanically driven El Niño-like SST warming (McGregor et al. 2020). This suggests that 3 the La Nina response seen in observations, paleoclimate proxy records, and model simulations after 4 initial El Niño could be a reflection of oscillatory nature of ENSO dynamics by which La Niña 5 events generally follow El Niño events (Okumura & Deser, 2010; e.g. Ohba & Ueda, 2009). It 6 further emphasize that at least a portion of such signal seen in reconstructions could be attributed to 7 natural variability (Polvani et al. 2019; 2020) rather than to volcanic forcing and large ensemble 8 experiments are still needed to quantify the relative roles of internal and forced response. This also 9 suggests that volcanic effects could persist for more than one year beyond the eruption. Various 10 paleoclimate studies are available so far to reconstruct ENSO relationship to volcanism and mostly 11 they show varying results. For instance, Dee and Steiger, (2022) tested the volcanism-ENSO 12 linkage in the past 2000 years long records of PHYDA product and noticed a weak tropical Pacific 13 response following large tropical volcanism resembling to El Niño. Moreover, inconsistencies were 14 noticed in magnitudes and spatial patterns between climate models and PHYDA regarding ENSO-15 volcano linkage.

16 We noticed an emerging consensus in CGCM based studies that investigated the impact of 17 tropical volcanic forcing on ENSO, with the vast majority showing an El Niño-like warming in the 18 year after a tropical eruption (McGregor et al. 2020). Despite the coherent responses, the CMIP5 19 and CMIP6 model response is significantly weaker than the observational composite (Liu et al. 20 2020; Xing et al. 2020). Nevertheless, some recent studies based on CMIP5 simulations showed 21 significantly larger (by 40-49 %) eruption-induced cooling than observations (Chylek et al. 2020). 22 This disparity could be either because of the extent of the response is inaccurately modeled, or due 23 to the coincidental occurrence of eruptions and El Niño events and/or model poor response to this 24 coincidental interaction and linkage to other possible concurrent natural variability signals (e.g. 25 Nicholls, 1988; Schneider et al. 2009; Driscoll et al. 2012; Polvani et al. 2019). Disparities in model 26 responses and their inconsistency with observations and proxy-based reconstruction could also be 27 partly related to the input of volcanic ash, which is neglected so far. Recently, it has been suggested 28 that the contribution of volcanic ash should be taken into account in volcanic simulations as it turns 29 out to be a key factor, but has been completely neglected due to its short lifespan (Zhu et al. 2021). 30 Ash-rich particles dominate the optical properties of the volcanic cloud for at least the first two 31 months, and therefore the initial lifetime of sulfur-rich gases is determined by the absorption of 32 sulfur dioxide onto the ash, instead of the reaction with OH as generally assumed. This study 33 further shows that approximately 43% more removal of volcanic sulfur from the stratosphere occurs 34 within 2 months due to heterogeneous sulfur dioxide chemistry on volcanic ash than without.

While most CGCMs show El Niño-like response, the exact dynamical causes of the response is still elusive. Several mechanisms (e.g., ocean dynamical thermostat, wind stress curl, 1 and ocean-land temperature changes) have been proposed that apparently explain the projection of 2 volcanic radiative cooling onto the ENSO variability, and different models favor different 3 mechanisms. Apparently, the inconsistency among models is attributed to differing model 4 dynamics, difference in feedbacks processes (e.g., Soden et al. 2002) and parameterizations or 5 differing experimental design. Thus, the modeled response appears to be the sum or balance of 6 multiple feedback projections. Since the balance of feedbacks varies between models (e.g., Joshi 7 and Shine, 2003; Lloyd et al. 2011; Soden et al. 2002), therefore, how ENSO reacts to volcanic 8 forcing may also vary across models.

9 Compared to tropical eruptions, there are fewer studies available to date that investigated 10 the impact of extratropical Northern/Southern Hemisphere (NH/SH) volcanic eruptions on ENSO 11 (Schneider et al. 2009; Pausata et al. 2015, Stevenson et al. 2016; Liu et al. 2018; Zuo et al. 2018). 12 These studies are consistent and show El Niño-like conditions emerging in the first year following 13 NH eruptions (e.g., Stevenson et al. 2016; Pausata et al. 2015, 2016). Cold conditions in the 14 equatorial Pacific are more likely to appear following SH eruptions, but this could not be similar to 15 typical dynamical La Niña-like response (Stevenson et al. 2016; Pausata et al. 2020). ITCZ shift 16 due to post-eruption cooling has been proposed as the leading mechanism for the ENSO response 17 (Pausata et al. 2020; Stevenson et al. 2016), while the other mechanisms (the ocean dynamical 18 thermostat, the cooling of tropical northern Africa or the Maritime continent) commonly invoked to 19 explain the post-eruption ENSO response appear to be of secondary importance (e.g., Ward et al. 20 2020; Pausata et al. 2020). A La Niña-like cooling signature following volcanic-induced El Niño-21 like pattern is also reported in response to extratropical volcanic forcing, which is in agreement with 22 observations and model simulations (e.g., Okumura & Deser, 2010; Ohba & Ueda, 2009). These 23 results suggest that extratropical volcanic forcing could potentially influence ENSO for few years 24 beyond an eruption. In conjunction to this, some recent modeling studies have also analyzed the 25 potential role of ocean circulation about volcano-ENSO linkage especially for high-latitude 26 eruptions and reported that this volcanically driven ENSO variability persisting for several decades 27 beyond the eruption could be attributed to volcanically forced changes in Atlantic Meridional 28 Overturning Circulation and associated changes in ocean heat content and sea level rise (e.g., 29 Church et al. 2005; Stenchikov et al. 2009; Mignot et al., 2011; Pausata et al. 2015; 2020). The role 30 of ocean circulation is very important in terms of ENSO variability and response to volcanism as 31 ocean accumulates the signal of external forcing and responds at multiple time scales (e.g., Church 32 et al. 2005; Stenchikov et al. 2009). As tropical volcanism also caused comparable perturbations in 33 ocean circulation, especially in ocean heat content and sea level rise, (Church et al. 2005; 34 Stenchikov et al. 2009; Mignot et al., 2011; Zanchettin et al. 2012; Dogar et al., 2020; Swingedouw 35 et al. 2015), therefore one would anticipate predicting similar modulation of ENSO following 36 tropical volcanism.

Our understanding of the evolution of ENSO and what ultimately leads to the occurrence of El Niño has improved considerably. Basically it is westerly wind anomalies over the western central equatorial Pacific that trigger Kelvin wave response leading to dynamically forced warming in the easternmost Pacific. It always starts with central Pacific warming, though (Graf 1986; Lai et al. 2016, 2018; Fadnavis et al., 2021).

6 We noticed that the coupled model simulations show a southward (northward) shift of 7 ITCZ following strong NH (SH) eruptions. Moreover, strong tropical eruptions (e.g., El Chichon 8 and Pinatubo) also show a southward shift of ITCZ and associated weakening of South Asian 9 monsoon in first two post-eruption summer seasons both in the observation analysis and high-10 resolution atmospheric model (HiRAM) simulations (Dogar and Sato, 2019). This ITCZ southward 11 (northward) shift is also seen following strong El Niño (La Nina) conditions in AOGCM 12 simulations with intermediate complexity (Dogar et al. 2017). This suggests that further systematic 13 coupled model experiments are needed to better understand these interfering effects of ENSO and 14 volcanism on the upward branch of Hadley Cell (i.e., ITCZ, e.g., Dogar, 2018). Similarly, varying 15 mechanisms have been proposed regarding post-eruption high-latitude winter warming effect, such 16 as this warming is argued to be caused by ENSO-induced NAO-like pattern or through volcanic-17 induced NAO-like pattern. This North Atlantic NAO-like ENSO response is also interpreted as an 18 extension of the PNA pattern (e.g. Brönnimann et al. 2007; Bulić and Kucharski 2012), or it could 19 simply be caused by ENSO teleconnections through a stratospheric pathways (e.g. Ineson and 20 Scaife 2009). El Niño and La Nina events seem connected with extra-tropical climate anomalies 21 through Pacific North American teleconnection pattern (Ropelewski and Halpert, 1986), therefore, 22 it is of prime importance to understand the causes of interannual variability associated with ENSO 23 and other climate phenomena (e.g., PNA and NAO) to fully understand the long-term effects of, for 24 example, changes in volcanism on teleconnections (e.g., ENSO) and associated variations in global 25 climate. Since the exact origin of post-eruption winter warming is still elusive, therefore, idealized 26 experiments in addition to VolMIP as proposed in Figure 10 are needed to enhance our 27 understanding on the complex ENSO-volcano linkage and associated climatic impacts.

28 A thorough assessment of the past literature shows that, in general, CMIP based models 29 show agreement on the underlying mechanisms of El Niño-like response triggered by tropical 30 eruptions, however, uncertainties still exist among modeled responses to volcanism happening in 31 the tropics and extratropics. The causes of such disparities are still elusive, however, apparently 32 these could be related to intermodal differences in experimental design, the quantity of ensemble 33 members including methods used to construct the ensembles, model resolution, differing model top, 34 input volcanic forcing data including its magnitude, seasonality, and the aerosol optical properties 35 associated with sulfate injection (e.g., Stevenson et al. 2017; Toohey et al. 2011; Collins et al. 2010; 36 McGregor & Timmermann, 2011; Zhu et al. 2021; Ohba et al. 2013). Moreover, model's limited

1 ability to simulate the contribution of internal variability related to large-scale circulation changes 2 could add further to this uncertainty (Marshall et al. 2009; Driscoll et al. 2012; Zambri et al. 2017). 3 Ocean precondition state (taking into account ENSO-types) at the time of eruption also adds to this 4 ENSO-volcano complex linkage and intermodal inconsistency in projection of this nexus. 5 Moreover, CP-type El Niño onsets may respond to volcanism more intensely than EP-type El Niño 6 onsets. Response of Hadley and Walker circulations and associated regional monsoonal rainfall are 7 also largely different for CP and EP-type ENSOs. This suggests the need for further studies on 8 model sensitivity to radiative forcing with consistent experimental protocol and a large number of 9 models and a large number of ensemble members. These idealized volcano-ENSO perturbation 10 experiments designed to accurately account for the effect of natural variability (e.g., ENSO, PNA 11 and NAO, Figure 10), in addition to the Model Intercomparison Project on the climate response to 12 volcanic forcing, VolMIP (Zanchettin et al. 2016), will permit future research to emphasize on 13 response differences that apparently originate from intermodal physical and dynamical differences.

14

10. Concluding Remarks

15 Past literature based on short paleoclimate records and coupled model simulations suggest a 16 significant eastern Pacific warming resembling an El Niño-like response during the eruption year 17 and a lagged La Niña-like response few years after the eruption. However, long range climate 18 reconstructions based on newly developed PHYDA product, spanning past 2000 years show a weak 19 El Niño-like response of the tropical Pacific following volcanism. This is partly attributed to the 20 statistical approaches employed to evaluate proxy based reconstructions as they seems sufficiently 21 less sensitive in capturing ENSO response especially when there are strong chances of volcanic 22 signal modulation with concurrent ENSO signal and the possibility of the interaction with internal 23 variability caused by other large scale circulation changes (e.g., PNA and NAO). We further 24 noticed that the ENSO response to volcanism is very sensitive to ocean preconditioning (especially 25 different ENSO-types, i.e., EP and CP), eruption timing, position and magnitude. Moreover, 26 stronger volcanic eruptions are expected to cause more significant ENSO response. We further 27 noticed that some mechanisms of ENSO-volcano linkage still remain elusive. For example, how 28 radiative cooling of tropical volcanism is projected onto ENSO contingent to the coincidental 29 ENSO events unfolding at the time of the eruption. There are fewer observations and climate proxy 30 records available to evaluate the effects of extratropical volcanism on ENSO. Nevertheless, model-31 based studies suggest that extratropical Northern (Southern) eruptions trigger a response similar to 32 that of El Niño (La Niña). Emergence and significant amplification of El Niño-like conditions are 33 also projected in a model simulation with RCP-8.5 future scenario following strong tropical 34 eruptions of the size of Tambora 1815, and associated reduction in monsoonal rainfall (e.g., African 35 and Asian-Australian monsoons) largely due to the post-volcanic land-ocean thermal contrast 36 mechanism.

1 The specific cause of post-eruption winter warming is still elusive, however, recent findings 2 suggest that the large-scale circulation changes concurrently occurring during volcanism could be 3 the potential source of high-latitude winter warming over Eurasia and North America. We noticed 4 that significant studies are available that highlight anthropogenic-driven ENSO changes and those 5 derived by volcanism, however, combined interaction and ENSO response to both these external 6 forcings (i.e., anthropogenic and volcanism) is not explored yet. Therefore, further research in this 7 direction is recommended with consistent experimental protocol using multi-models and large 8 ensembles accounting for the effects of internal variability and other large scale circulation changes, 9 to explore the ENSO response to tropical and extratropical volcanism and to better understand 10 whether post-eruption high-latitude winter warming is related or unrelated to volcanism.

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12

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21 Declarations

22 Conflict of Interest

23 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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Table 1: Details of the ENSO reconstructions, and their correlation with the observed ENSO variability
 as denoted by the Southern-Oscillation Index (SOI) over the period 1900–1977 (Source: McGregor et al.
 2020).

Proxy Number	Start Year	End Year	Reference	Source Proxy Location	Source Proxy Type	Correlation with SOI
1	1706	1997	Stahle et al. (1998)	Pacific Basin	Tree ring	0.76
2	1408	1978	Cook (2000)	North America	Tree ring	0.73
3	1650	1990	Mann et al. (2000)	Near global tropics	Mixed	0.78
4	1590	1990	Evans et al. (2002)	Indo-Pacific Basin	Coral	0.67
5	1800	1990	Evans et al. (2001)	America	Tree ring	0.67
6	1300	1978	Cook et al. (2008)	North America	Tree ring	0.75
7	1727	1982	Braganza et al. (2009)	Pacific Basin	Mixed	0.73
8	1525	1982	Braganza et al. (2009)	Pacific Basin	Mixed	0.65
9	1650	1977	McGregor et al. (2010)	Pacific Basin	Mixed	0.83
10	1607	1998	Wilson et al. (2010)	Tropical Pacific	Mixed	0.58
11	1540	1998	Wilson et al. (2010)	Pacific Basin	Mixed	0.48
12	900	2002	Li et al. (2011)	North America	Tree ring	0.6
13	1150	1998	Emile-Geay et al. (2013a, 2013b)	Near global tropics	Mixed	0.8
14	1150	1998	Emile-Geay et al. (2013a, 2013b)	Near global tropics	Mixed	0.83
15	1150	1998	Emile-Geay et al. (2013a, 2013b)	Near global tropics	Mixed	0.82
16	1301	2005	Li et al. (2013)	Pacific Basin	Tree ring	0.67
17	1607	1997	Tierney et al. (2015)	Tropical Pacific	Coral	0.74

26 Figure Legends:

Figure 1: Observed SST response to the five main volcanic eruptions during 1870–2010 (i.e., Krakatau (1883), Santa Maria (1902), Mt Agung (1962), El Chichon (1982), and Pinatubo (1991)). SST anomalies (SSTA, °C) are computed using the preceding 5-year climatology, and the resulting anomalies are plotted relative to the tropical average (20°N–20°S). (a) Evolution of the composited Niño-3.4 (5°S–5°N, 170°W–120°W) SSTA plotted over the 2-year period including the five largest volcanic eruptions during 1870–2010 in HadISST observations (black line). The red dots denote when the five events have anomalies of the same sign. An arrow indicates the dates and magnitude of the selected eruptions, based

on AOD by Gao et al. (2008). (b) Same as (a) but shown as a longitude-time section. The black rectangle denotes the Niño-3.4 region during October-November-December. Stippling highlights times and locations where the five eruptions display anomalies of the same sign and the contour corresponds to the 90% significance level of this anomaly following a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. Note that the composites maintained a common seasonality (i.e., the calendar months of each eruption were aligned despite the differing eruption months) due to the seasonally synchronized nature of ENSO dynamics (Source: Khodri et al. 2017).

Figure 2: Observed boreal-winter SAT anomaly after the five strong volcanic events (Krakatau, Santa María, Agung, El Chichón, and Pinatubo). Composite SAT anomaly (shading; K) with respect to the five years preceding each eruption during the first boreal winter after the five selected eruptions in (a) 20CRv2c,
(b) GISTEMP. Stippling indicates temperature anomaly significant at the 95% confidence level.

12 Figure 3: Observed and simulated El Niño relationship with volcanism. Five month running mean of Niño 13 3.4 index (K; dotted line: HadSST1; solid line: HadSST2; dot-dashed line: ERSSTv5) and 850 hPa WCEP 14 (140° E-180°, 5° S-5° N) zonal wind (U, ms-1) anomalies in observations and reanalysis and in SEA 15 composite of 41 ensemble members of CESM-LE (dashed line) for Agung (1963), El Chichón (1982), and 16 Pinatubo (1991) eruptions. Solid part of the curve denotes simulated anomaly significant above the 95% 17 confidence level. Monthly zonal-mean AOD before and after the eruptions for these eruptions are obtained 18 from Ammann (2003). Year (0) denotes the eruption year, and year (1) is the first year after the eruption 19 (Source: Chai et al. 2020).

Figure 4: Superposed Epoch Analysis of the last millennium reanalysis (LMR) Niño 3.4 reconstructions
around the 13 events when the Palmyra coral record is available, a) coral predictors only, b) six best
tree-ring based Niño 3.4 predictors previously identified by Li et al. 2013 (Li13b6), and c)
corals+Li13b6 predictors. Solid curves with dark dots denote the composite mean, and the light dots
denote the Niño 3.4 anomaly at each year for each individual event. The light gray dashed curves denote
the 1%, 5%, 10%, 90%, 95%, and 99% quantiles of the composite means from 1000 bootstrap drawn
from non-volcanic years (Zhu et al. 2022).

Figure 5: Composited ensemble-mean seasonal average surface temperature anomalies (relative to tropical mean: 20°N–20°S) and rainfall anomalies (contours at intervals of 0.2 mm/day; zero contours are excluded) with surface wind (m/s; vector). The ensemble mean maps are calculated from 32 CMIP5 models that are each composited around five strong volcanic events (i.e., Krakatau, Santa María, Agung, El Chichón, and Pinatubo) where the eruption begins in year 0. DJF (0/1) is peak of the strong tropical volcanic forcing composite (Source: McGregor et al. 2020).

33 Figure 6: Transition to La Niña from tropical eruption-induced El Niño mode and internal El Niño 34 mode. Shown are the composite NINO3 index for 25 tropical eruptions during the period 501 to 2000 35 AD (thick red line) and for the El Niño in the control run (thick blue line), as well as the associated zonal 36 wind anomalies (dashed lines) averaged over the western Pacific (5°S-5°N, 120°E-150°E). "1" denotes 37 1 year after each eruption, and "2", 2 years. The El Niño in the control run is defined when the boreal 38 winter (December-February average) NINO index is above one standard deviation. Each variable is 39 normalized by its maximum value in years "1" and "2". The year is defined as the eruption year when its 40 annual aerosol is larger than the 2 years before and after it. When the eruption starts late in the year, e.g., 41 November or December, it has maximum aerosol density in the following year; in such case, the 42 following year is considered as the eruption year (Source: Liu et al. 2018).

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Figure 7: CESM version 1.0 (CESM1) model simulated SST anomaly evolutions after different eruptions.
The composites of normalized 3-month-mean SST anomalies (shading), and 850-hPa wind anomalies
(vectors) since the first winter after the NH (a), the tropical (b), and the SH (c) eruptions. "0" denotes the
year of each eruption, and "+1" indicates 1 year after the eruption.

48 Figure 8: CESM version 1.0 (CESM1) model simulated oceanic responses to different eruptions. The

49 normalized composite summer-mean (June-August) surface currents and surface (0-20 m) upwelling

anomalies one year after the NH (a), the tropical (b), and the SH (c) eruptions (Source: Liu et al. 2018).

51 Figure 9: Stratospheric responses to tropical volcanism in CMIP6. Composites of (a) zonally averaged

52 temperature anomalies as a function of latitude and height (shading), and (b) 50-hPa geopotential height

anomalies in the first NH winter following the five tropical eruptions for the multi-model mean of the 21

CMIP6 models (shading). The ensemble mean of each model is also shown in (b). Stippling denotes anomalies significant at the 95% confidence level (Source: Liu et al. 2020).

12345678 Figure 10: A schematic diagram suggesting two different experiments using a large number of coupled GCMs with large ensemble members with volcanic (i.e., panel A) and non-volcanic forcing (i.e., panel B). The difference of the ensemble average of these multi-model, multi-ensemble volcanic forcing experiments from non-volcanic experiments is required to delineate the volcanic impact (i.e., direct and non-direct) from natural climate variability. Large-scale circulation changes that supposedly play role in high-latitude winter 9 warming are shown in bold red font.

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4 Figure 1: Observed SST response to the five main volcanic eruptions during 1870–2010 (i.e., Krakatau 5 (1883), Santa Maria (1902), Mt Agung (1962), El Chichon (1982), and Pinatubo (1991)). SST anomalies 6 (SSTA, °C) are computed using the preceding 5-year climatology, and the resulting anomalies are plotted 7 relative to the tropical average (20°N-20°S). (a) Evolution of the composited Niño-3.4 (5°S-5°N, 8 170°W–120°W) SSTA plotted over the 2-year period including the five largest volcanic eruptions during 9 1870-2010 in HadISST observations (black line). The red dots denote when the five events have 10 anomalies of the same sign. An arrow indicates the dates and magnitude of the selected eruptions, based 11 on AOD by Gao et al. (2008). (b) Same as (a) but shown as a longitude-time section. The black rectangle 12 denotes the Niño-3.4 region during October-November-December. Stippling highlights times and 13 locations where the five eruptions display anomalies of the same sign and the contour corresponds to the 14 90% significance level of this anomaly following a two-tailed Student's t-test. (c) Time series of 15 anomalous percentage of El Niño occurrence for CMIP5 historical simulation members over the entire 16 historical period (136 years). Note that the composites maintained a common seasonality due to the 17 seasonally synchronized nature of ENSO events (Reproduced from Khodri et al. (2017) under a creative 18 commons attribution 4.0 license https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



Figure 2: Observed boreal-winter SAT anomaly (K) after the five strong volcanic events (Krakatau, Santa
María, Agung, El Chichón, and Pinatubo). Composite SAT anomaly (shading; K) with respect to the five
years preceding each eruption during the first boreal winter after the five selected eruptions in (a) 20CRv2c,
(b) GISTEMP. Stippling indicates temperature anomaly significant at the 95% confidence level (Reproduced

from Xing et al. (2020). \bigcirc 2018 American Meteorological Society, used with permission).





Figure 3: Observed and simulated El Niño relationship with volcanism. Five month running mean of Niño
3.4 index (K; dotted line: HadSST1; solid line: HadSST2; dot-dashed line: ERSSTv5) and 850 hPa WCEP
(140° E–180°, 5° S–5° N) zonal wind (U, ms–1) anomalies in observations and reanalysis and in SEA
composite of 41 ensemble members of CESM-LE (dashed line) for Agung (1963), El Chichón (1982), and
Pinatubo (1991) eruptions. Solid part of the curve denotes simulated anomaly significant above the 95%
confidence level. Monthly zonal-mean AOD before and after the eruptions for these eruptions are obtained
from Ammann (2003). Year (0) denotes the eruption year, and year (1) is the first year after the eruption
(Reproduced from Chai et al. (2020) under a creative commons attribution 4.0 license
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



12345678Figure 4: Superposed Epoch Analysis of the last millennium reanalysis (LMR) Niño 3.4 reconstructions around the 13 events when the Palmyra coral record is available, a) coral predictors only, b) six best tree-ring based Niño 3.4 predictors previously identified by Li et al. 2013 (Li13b6), and c) corals+Li13b6 predictors. Solid curves with dark dots denote the composite mean, and the light dots denote the Niño 3.4 anomaly at each year for each distinct event. The light gray dashed curves denote the 1%, 5%, 10%, 90%, 95%, and 99% quantiles of the composite means from 1000 bootstrap drawn from non-volcanic years (Reproduced from Zhu et al. (2022) under a creative commons attribution 4.0 9 license https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



Figure 5: Composited ensemble-mean seasonal average surface temperature anomalies (relative to tropical mean: 20°N–20°S, unit: K) and rainfall anomalies (contours at intervals of 0.2 mm/day; zero contours are excluded) with surface wind (m/s; vector). The ensemble mean maps are calculated from 32 CMIP5 models that are each composited around five strong volcanic events (i.e., Krakatau, Santa María,

Agung, El Chichón, and Pinatubo) where the eruption begins in year 0. DJF (0/1) is peak of the strong

tropical volcanic forcing composite (Taken from McGregor et al. (2020). © 2018 American Geophysical



Union, used with permission).



456789 Figure 6: Transition to La Niña from tropical eruption-induced El Niño mode and internal El Niño mode. Shown are the composite NINO3 index for 25 tropical eruptions during the period 501 to 2000 AD (thick red line) and for the El Niño in the control run (thick blue line), as well as the associated zonal wind anomalies (dashed lines) averaged over the western Pacific (5°S-5°N, 120°E-150°E). "1" denotes 1 year after each eruption, and "2", 2 years. The El Niño in the control run is defined when the boreal winter (December-10 February average) NINO index is above one standard deviation. Each variable is standardized by its 11 maximum value in years "1" and "2". The year is defined as the eruption year when its annual aerosol is 12 larger than the 2 years before and after it. When the eruption starts late in the year, e.g., November or 13 December, it has maximum aerosol density in the following year; in such case, the following year is 14 considered as the eruption year (Reproduced from Liu et al. (2018) under a creative commons attribution 4.0 15 license https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

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Figure 7: CESM version 1.0 (CESM1) model simulated SST anomaly (K) evolution after different eruptions. The composites of normalized 3-month-mean SST anomalies (shading), and 850-hPa wind anomalies (vectors, m/s) since the first winter after the NH (a), the tropical (b), and the SH (c) eruptions. "0" denotes the year of each eruption, and "+1" indicates 1 year after the eruption. During the simulated 1500 years from 501 to 2000 AD, there were 16 NH, 25 tropical, and 13 SH explosive volcanoes (Reproduced from Liu et al. (2018) under a creative commons attribution 4.0 license https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



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1 2 3 4 normalized composite summer-mean (June-August) surface currents (m/s) and surface (0-20 m) upwelling anomalies (shading, K) one year after the NH (a), the tropical (b), and the SH (c) eruptions (Reproduced from (2018)creative attribution 4.0 license Liu et al. under а commons https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



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Figure 9: Stratospheric responses to tropical volcanism in CMIP6. Composites of (a) zonally averaged temperature anomalies as a function of latitude and height (shading), and (b) 50-hPa geopotential height anomalies in the first NH winter following the five tropical eruptions for the multi-model mean of the 21 CMIP6 models (shading). The ensemble mean of each model is also shown in (b). Stippling denotes anomalies significant at the 95% confidence level (Reproduced from Liu et al. (2020) under a creative commons attribution 4.0 license https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

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Figure 10: A schematic diagram suggesting two experiments using a large number of coupled GCMs with large ensemble size with volcanic (i.e., panel A) and non-volcanic forcing (i.e., panel B). The difference of the ensemble average of these multi-model, large ensemble volcanic forcing experiments from non-volcanic experiments is required to delineate the volcanic impact (i.e., direct and non-direct) from natural climate variability. Large-scale circulation changes that supposedly play role in high-latitude winter warming are shown in bold red font.