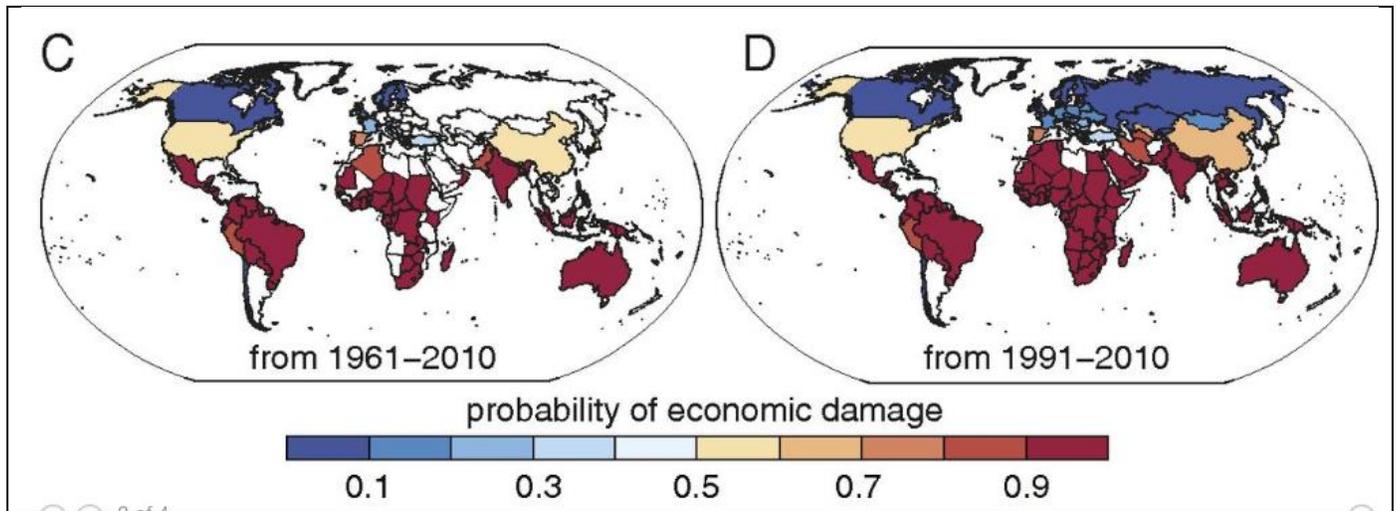


## 18.12 Why Poorer Nations Suffer More from Climate Change

Source: “Poor Nations Lose as Planet Warms, Study Finds” by Somini Sengupta, NYT, April 23, 2019



### Questions

1. Why does the article claim when it comes to climate change some countries are winners and others are losers?
2. Based on the maps above, which regions of the world have suffered the most economically from climate change?
3. Which regions of the world have benefited the most economically from climate change?
4. Why is climate change particularly devastating in India and Nigeria?
5. In your opinion, what is a fair conclusion based on the maps and article?

A. Climate change creates winners and losers. Norway is among the winners; Nigeria among the losers. Those are the stark findings of a peer-reviewed paper by two Stanford University professors who have tried to quantify the impact of rising greenhouse gas emissions on global inequality. It was published Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Global temperatures have risen nearly 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, since the start of the industrial age, and the study was aimed at quantifying what effect that increase has had on national economies and the global wealth gap.

B. Poor countries lost out, while rich countries, especially those who have racked up a lot of emissions over the last 50 years, the study found, have “benefited from global warming.” Most of the world’s poor countries are poorer today than they would have been had those emissions not altered the climate, while many rich countries, especially in the northern belt of the Northern Hemisphere, are richer than they would have been, the study found. Between 1961 and 2000, climate change dampened per capita incomes in the world’s poorest countries by between 17 percent and 30 percent. Among the countries hardest hit were also some of the largest. India, the world’s second most populous country, would have been 30 percent richer without climate change, the study concluded. For Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, that figure was 29 percent.

C. Norway, which is also a big oil and gas producer, fared well: It grew 34 percent richer. The authors cautioned that data on the very hottest and the very coldest countries is relatively sparse. Countries in temperate zones, including China and the United States, did not feel much of an effect, the study said. “If you’re a really cool country you’ve been helped a lot,” Dr. Burke said. “If you’re a really warm country, you’ve been hurt a lot. And if you’re in the middle the effects have been smaller or much more muted.”