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| RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Foreign Policy and International Security

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| ABSTRACT

Drawing on the annual analyses and conclusions of the Aspen Strategy Group (which includes former officials, scientists, businesspeople and journalists), then, from the 2023 AI Security Summit at Bletchley Park, the European Union Artificial Intelligence Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689)) as well as the 2025 AI Action Summit held in Paris, this analytical research structures a concise critical review of the impact of artificial technology (AI) on global politics and international security. Public discourse on the effects of AI has mainly focused on the fear of it surpassing human intelligence and getting out of control, as well as on the concern that new intelligent machines will replace humans in every aspect of life, from driving cars to diagnosing diseases, etc. However, AI will also have a significant impact on future global politics. It will allow governments to embrace the digital world, providing an alternative to open political systems. In just a few weeks since its release, ChatGPT3 has already gained 100 million monthly users, while chatbots that have become the main topic of conversation are just the tip of the iceberg. Artificial intelligence that creates text, speech, art and videos is advancing rapidly, with far-reaching consequences for governments, commerce and civic life. It is no wonder that there is a serious influx of capital in this sector, that is, both governments and companies are investing in startups to develop and apply the latest machine learning tools. These new applications will combine historical data with machine learning, natural language processing and deep learning to determine the probability of future events. This progress is already hinting at new reshaping of government policies, from which policies are already generating new foreign policies with new geopolitical structuring in the international political and security plan.

| KEYWORDS

Foreign Policy; International Security; Artificial Technology; Artificial Intelligence;

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Issues and Methodological Framework of the Paper

Based on the above-mentioned issues of how much and how artificial technology (AI) determines international politics and security, this paper presents an analytical review based on the dynamics of international politics activities in recent years and thus draws a conclusion about the general situation and the course of international politics in this context. The paper analyzes the impact of artificial technology (AI) on international politics and global security in two theoretical segments, and finally structures a concise conclusion with future political steps.

Research Question

How much and how does artificial technology (AI) affect foreign policy and international security?

Research Hypothesis

Artificial technology (AI) significantly determines foreign policy and international security.

2. Artificial Technology (AI) and International Politics

The experiences of international politics with nuclear weapons and their control are already being generated in the creation of policies for artificial technology. The annual analyses and conclusions of the Aspen Strategy Group (which includes former officials, scientists, businessmen and journalists), then, from the 2023 AI Security Summit in Bletchley Park, the European Union Artificial Intelligence Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689)) as well as the 2025 AI Action Summit held in Paris, are the first concrete and serious beginnings of creating international policies in this field.

The first Independent International Report on the Security of AI and AI Security marks a key milestone in the global effort to understand and manage the risks associated with the development and use of general-purpose artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and thus shape new policies and security plans at the international level. This comprehensive report reviews a wide range of potential risks posed by these AI systems and presents strategies for mitigating them, ensuring a safe and ethical development path for AI around the world. The report, which is a collaborative effort between experts from fields such as AI research, cybersecurity, ethics, law and public policy, is being structured by 30 countries participating in the 2023 AI Security Summit in Bletchley Park, UK.

The summit itself was a significant event with world leaders, industry representatives and academics, aiming to strengthen international cooperation on AI regulation and security. Strategically, the report provides a baseline of knowledge and recommendations ahead of the AI Action 2025 summit in Paris, which was an important forum for discussing practical policies and cooperative frameworks to improve global AI security and thus structure new policies and new security plans at the international level.

One of the key aspects of the report is a detailed analysis of the multifaceted risks of using general AI. Unlike limited AI applications, these systems with their broad capabilities open up complex security challenges such as unforeseen behaviors, security vulnerabilities, ethical issues, socio-economic impacts and possible misuse. The report highlights the need to strengthen risk assessment methods and continuous monitoring systems in order to monitor the rapid development of AI. It advocates for the integration of security protocols throughout the entire development process, from research to design, implementation and post-use evaluation.

On the other hand, AI will also affect the balance of power on the world stage. For the past few decades, the balance of global power has been maintained by the concept of nuclear deterrence for nuclear-armed states. Now, AI has the potential to advance security interests, sparking a heated race among nations to gain strategic advantage. Countries are already working to develop AI-based weapons, which will improve combat capabilities and reduce the number of soldiers on the ground who will be exposed to injury or death. China's National AI Strategy shows how seriously governments are taking this new technology, investing a lot of faith and effort in the future of AI. In a speech a few years ago, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the country that gains an edge in AI-based technology "will be the ruler of the world."

The way AI is used can have serious consequences for global politics, especially if one country has greater capabilities than another, which, as a result, can change the balance of power. It may be difficult to maintain the balance of power in a given region if some countries include AI-based technology in their orbit, thereby removing themselves from the historically disadvantaged position they have been in compared to their neighbors. Few countries can already afford to responsibly apply AI to the battlefield, as there are already countries that will not act responsibly on this issue, due to the possibility of putting themselves at a strategic disadvantage in relation to another country. For example, there is no approach in Chinese discourse to the ethical issues related to such weapons. Arms manufacturers in Russia have announced plans to develop AI-based weapons, such as missiles and small arms. Global institutions and agreements that ensure peace and stability in the international system are not designed to apply to a system that includes AI. However, a new consensus among the United States, the European Union, China, Russia, and other emerging AI powers on specific norms will be crucial to controlling the coming AI arms race.

In many ways, the conversion of non-transferable forms of demand into transferable instruments, i.e. the securitization of the digital world, is a natural global development with the increasing presence of non-state actors in the international system of the 21st century. Terrorist groups and criminal organizations seeking to commit immoral acts and wreak havoc on societies have used digital tools to achieve their goals in unconventional ways.

The greatest threat from AI-based weapons does not come from individual countries. The threat will come from non-state actors if such weapons fall into their hands, implying an increased asymmetry between national militaries and terrorist groups and

criminal organizations that are moving forward in some aspects of future warfare. Non-state actors and countries could in the future wage virtual battles between different forms of AI, seeking to disable each other with malicious code or disinformation. At a time when populism is on the rise and nationalist politics is resurgent, AI could be used to target specific groups of people to rely on false information or act against their interests with significant deliberate effects, threatening the integrity of democratic discourse and the reputation of state institutions.

3. Artificial Technology and Overall International Security

When Robert Oppenheimer (1904–1967) was an American theoretical physicist who served as the director of the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory during World War II. He is often called the "father of the atomic bomb" for his role in overseeing the development of the first nuclear weapons) and other physicists in the 1940s developed the first nuclear weapons, they worried that their invention could destroy humanity. So far, that has not happened, but nuclear arms control has been a persistent challenge ever since.

Today, many scientists see artificial intelligence—the algorithms and software that enable machines to perform tasks that usually require human intelligence—as an equally transformative tool. Like previous general-purpose technologies, artificial intelligence has enormous potential for both good and evil. For example, in cancer research, more analyses can be analyzed and summarized in minutes than humans can in months. And it can reliably predict protein folding patterns that would otherwise take scientists years to do. At the same time, artificial intelligence is reducing the costs and obstacles to the activities of eccentrics, terrorists, and other malicious actors who want to cause harm. The authors of a new study from the RAND Corporation warn that "the marginal cost of recreating a dangerous smallpox-like virus could be as little as $100,000, while developing a comprehensive vaccine could cost more than a billion dollars".

Moreover, some experts fear that advanced AI will become so much smarter than humans that it will control us, rather than the other way around. Estimates of the time it will take to develop such a super-smart machine—known as general-purpose AI—range from a few years to a few decades. In any case, the increasing risks of even today's "special-purpose" AI are already calling for more attention.

In the United States, the Aspen Strategy Group (which includes former officials, scientists, businesspeople, and journalists) has met every summer for 40 years to discuss specific national security issues. Recent meetings have discussed topics such as artificial intelligence, nuclear weapons, cyberattacks, and the rise of China.

The benefits include improving the ability to analyze vast amounts of intelligence, strengthening early warning systems, improving complex logistical systems, and validating computer code to improve cybersecurity. But there are also major risks, including the development of autonomous weapons, random errors in software algorithms, and adversarial AI systems that could undermine cybersecurity.

China is investing heavily in the AI arms race and boasts some structural advantages. AI requires three key resources: data to train the models; smart engineers to develop the algorithms; and computing power to power them. China has few legal or privacy restrictions on access to data (although some data sets are restricted for ideological reasons), and the country has a wealth of bright young engineers. China lags behind the United States in advanced microchips, which provide the computing power for AI. This dynamic of competition in this field is already shaping new geopolitics and new structural settings for international security.

But what is actually happening internationally? US export controls limit China's access not only to advanced chips but also to expensive Dutch lithography machines. According to the experts in Aspen, China is a year or two behind the US, but the situation is certainly unstable. Although US presidents (Joe Biden, Trump and Xi Jinping) agreed to hold bilateral talks on artificial intelligence during their meetings, analysts are not particularly optimistic about the chances of controlling artificial intelligence arms.

A particularly serious threat comes from autonomous weapons. Even after more than a decade of diplomatic efforts at the UN, countries around the world have failed to agree on a ban on lethal autonomous weapons. International humanitarian law requires the military to distinguish between soldiers and civilians, and the Pentagon has long had a rule that humans must participate in the decision-making process when using weapons. However, in some situations (for example, defending against incoming missiles), there is simply no time for human intervention.

Because specific conditions matter, humans must firmly define (with a code) what a weapon can and cannot do. In other words,

humans must be involved in the control "from above" if they cannot directly participate "from within." This is not just a speculative question. During the Ukrainian war, the Russians have been jamming the Ukrainian military's signals, forcing the Ukrainians to program their devices to autonomously make the final decisions about when to fire.

One of the most feared dangers of artificial intelligence is its use in biological warfare or terrorist attacks. When countries around the world agreed in 1972 to ban biological weapons, it was believed that such weapons were of little use because of the risk of "boomeranging" or hitting the person who used them. However, synthetic biology makes it possible to create weapons that will destroy one population group without affecting another. Or a terrorist with access to a laboratory might want to kill as many people as possible, as the Aum Shinrikyo sect did in 1995 in Japan (although they used non-infectious sarin, modern equivalents of this cult can use artificial intelligence to develop an infectious virus). When it comes to nuclear technologies, the countries of the world signed the "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" in 1968, which has been acceded to by 191 countries to date. The International Atomic Energy Agency regularly reviews national energy programs to ensure that they are used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Despite intense rivalry during the Cold War, the leading countries in nuclear technology agreed in 1978 to certain restrictions on the export of the most dangerous equipment and technical know-how. This turn of events opens up possible directions for progress in the field of artificial intelligence, although, of course, there are obvious differences between these technologies. It is quite obvious that technology advances faster than politics or diplomacy, especially if stimulated by intense market competition in the private sector.

4. Conclusion and next steps

To deal with AI properly, we need stronger cooperation between state institutions: governments, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and parliaments; the private sector, academia, civil society and the general public. The task is daunting, but not impossible. States should ensure that the private sector, which bears responsibility for the design, programming and implementation of AI technologies, adheres to human rights standards. States should also invest in public awareness-raising and education initiatives to develop the competencies of all citizens and, in particular, to guide young people to actively engage with AI-based technologies and better understand their impact.

On the other hand, artificial intelligence systems are also seen as a distorted mirror of society, reflecting and amplifying our prejudices and inequalities. As technology researcher Nanjira Sambuli has noted, digitalization tends to exacerbate, rather than improve, pre-existing political, social, and economic problems.

The enthusiasm for using predictive tools must be balanced by informed and ethical consideration of their intended and unintended effects. Where the effects of powerful algorithms are questionable or unknown, the precautionary principle suggests that they should not be used.

We must not allow AI to become yet another area where those in positions of power seek forgiveness rather than permission. That is why the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and others have called for moratoriums on the adoption of AI systems until ethical and human rights frameworks are updated to take into account their potential harm.

Creating appropriate frameworks will require consensus on the fundamental principles that should be taken into account in the design and use of predictive AI tools. Fortunately, the race for AI has led to a parallel wave of research, initiatives, institutes, and ethics networks. And while civil society has taken the lead, intergovernmental bodies such as the OECD and UNESCO have also joined in.

The UN has been working to build universal standards for ethical AI since 2021, if not earlier. In addition, the European Union has proposed a Law on Artificial Intelligence (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) – the first such effort by a major regulator – that would prevent certain uses (such as those resembling China's social credit system), and would subject other high-risk applications to special requirements and oversight.

Based on these findings and conclusions, we can conclude that the research hypothesis Artificial Technology (AI) Significantly Determines Foreign Policy and International Security is sustainable. So the new technological revolution (artificial technology) already poses serious challenges to the idea of consolidating democratic institutions and social equality, as surveillance practices powered by AI technologies could curtail civil rights and freedoms. It is the responsibility of international diplomacy to communicate the responsible use of AI to the rest of the world. Does the use of AI mean smarter and more innovative governments, or mass surveillance and the collapse of democracies? The truth is that the answer is currently unclear, which is both worrying and exciting. The proliferation and development of AI and access to "big data" in the new era present a moral quandary for governments around the world.

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