

## **The Generative World Order: Interface Between AI and Geopolitics**

**Toersa Samiha<sup>1</sup>**

### **Introduction:**

The emergence of AI in the modern world has brought about its impacts in many different aspects. Geopolitics is not out of AI's bounds and it is being used by big powers as a major tool to alter world order. In today's world, AI is used to generate desired political and social outcomes and even shape public opinion. This means that day by day, the value of our decisions is decreasing and we are automatically becoming the victims of AI-based decisions, which is then affecting and shaping our lives. Geopolitics is not anymore just in the hands of world leaders as these leaders have been enthusiastically relying on big data and making massive investments in technologies which can develop their nation's artificial intelligence system and thereby make important geopolitical decisions. It is safe to say that countries in the global North are now in a full swing competition to get ahead of each other by influencing geopolitics without always inclining on traditional warfare. Although traditional warfare is not off the table, tackling geopolitics by deploying AI is surely a priority now. Thus, the world is moving toward an interface between AI and geopolitics, where we will get to witness geopolitical strategies and goals being formulated, influenced and achieved with the help of AI; which will eventually lead to a remarkable shift in the overall world order.

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<sup>1</sup> Toersa Samiha is currently working as a Research Assistant at Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS). She has completed her BSS in Global Studies and Governance from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and now pursuing her MSS in Peace, Conflict and Human Rights Studies from Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).



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## **Shifting World Order:**

AI is being used by the US military to optimize budgeting decisions as well as equipment maintenance. It is being used by intelligence analysts to swiftly sift through massive amounts of data in order to find pertinent patterns that help them make decisions more quickly and with more accuracy. Americans should anticipate that AI will alter military tactics in the future, both for the US and its enemies. In summary, the security revolution that AI has sparked is only now beginning to take shape. Concerned about the risks associated with AI, several researchers have advocated for a halt to development of the technology as it has become more widely known. However, it is impossible to halt the advancement of AI in America due to the pervasive mathematical underpinnings of the field, the widespread proliferation of human skill sets for developing AI models, and the formidable forces driving AI research and development—commercial gain and human ingenuity alike. Attempting to halt progress would also be incorrect. China is putting a lot of effort toward overtaking the US in AI, especially in the area of military use. If it is successful, Beijing will have a far more potent force than the US, one that may be able to rival US operations

in terms of both pace and impact. Additionally, there would be a grave increase in China's capacity to wage cyber and electronic warfare on American networks and vital infrastructure. In other words, the Pentagon must adopt responsible AI faster rather than slower. If it does not do that, Washington risks losing the military might that protects American interests, the safety of its partners and friends, and the rules-based international system.<sup>2</sup> According to Michele A. Flournoy, who has served as one of the top policymakers during the Obama administration, the US must continue with its development of AI centric technologies, especially in the military front. This is because China is rapidly developing its AI sector and also implementing such technology in its military operations. In such a situation, if the US does not keep up, it will fall behind and China will gain immense advantage as it will be able to influence and reshape world order as per its own national interests. But it must be taken into consideration that only racing against each other to develop the best technology will not be enough. Flournoy suggests that being the first mover to acquire the latest AI system and integrate it into its military would provide the US an upper hand over the entire world, mainly China. However, that quest must be a responsible one so that the US can set an example for the rest of the world that it can be the superpower with very highly equipped AI assisted military and at the same time follow ethics and code of conduct in warfare. In short, a proper governance mechanism must be in place in that interface.



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<sup>2</sup>Michele A. Flournoy, "AI is Already at War," *Foreign Affairs*, 24 October, 2023, [https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/ai-already-war-flournoy?check\\_logged\\_in=1&utm\\_medium=promo\\_email&utm\\_source=lo\\_flows&utm\\_campaign=registered\\_user\\_welcome&utm\\_term=email\\_1&utm\\_content=20240122](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/ai-already-war-flournoy?check_logged_in=1&utm_medium=promo_email&utm_source=lo_flows&utm_campaign=registered_user_welcome&utm_term=email_1&utm_content=20240122).

*Source: Getty*

## **Dangers Posed by Generative AI:**

One of the most revolutionary technologies in centuries is generative artificial intelligence, or AI that can produce new text, images, and other media from data that already exists. With this technology now that it is more accessible and potent than ever, its malicious use is set to put the safety of the US political system to the test by enabling bad actors determined to destroy American democracy, such as China, Iran, and Russia, to step up their strategies. In particular, generative AI will increase cybersecurity threats and facilitate the easy, quick, and inexpensive spread of false information across the nation. Technology may heighten current risks in the 2024 election, but it will not create any radical new ones—bad actors have been trying to sabotage the American political system with disinformation and cyberthreats for years. When used by opponents, generative AI might jeopardize every step of the political process, including voter registration, vote casting, and results reporting. It will primarily be up to state and local election officials across the nation to handle this threat. These authorities have guarded the democratic process against foreign enemies, wars, natural disasters, pandemics, and disruptive technology for almost 250 years.<sup>3</sup> However, these officials require assistance, particularly in light of the tremendous strain they have been under since the 2020 election and the erroneous claims of voter fraud that followed. Federal organizations, generative AI firms, the media, and manufacturers of voting equipment must all play a part in enabling these authorities to strengthen the security of electoral infrastructure by providing them with the tools, knowledge, resources, and confidence they require. Additionally, safe working conditions for election officials are required, from the start of voting until the final vote verification. Companies that specialize in generative AI in particular can be of assistance by creating and disseminating tools for recognizing content generated by AI and by making sure that security is given high priority in the design, development, and implementation of their capabilities to avoid misuse by bad actors.

## **How is China Influencing Geopolitics Through AI?**

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<sup>3</sup> Jen Easterly, Scott Schwab and Cait Conley, “Artificial Intelligence’s Threat to Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs*, 3 January 2024, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/artificial-intelligences-threat-democracy>.

The Chinese government has been aggressively pushing the development and application of AI because it views this technology as a strategic tool that would enable it to further its geopolitical and economic objectives. China's approach to AI, however, also brings up issues with human liberties and privacy because the government has a history of using AI for social control, censorship, and monitoring. Beyond the vulnerabilities associated with the internet, generative AI poses a challenge to governmental authority. In accordance with these new rules, companies that wish to offer the public generative AI services must obtain a license and submit a security assessment if their model makes use of social mobilization or public opinion features. China requires generative AI providers to protect national unity, protect the integrity of state power, avoid encouraging secession, maintain social and economic order, and make sure that socialist principles are reflected in the products they generate. Additionally, China has been assembling its bureaucratic toolkits in order to swiftly and iteratively propose new laws governing AI, enabling it to promptly modify regulatory guidelines in response to new applications of the technology that are embraced.

The Chinese government is firmly committed to investing in AI across sectors, notwithstanding its reservations about the uses of generative AI. In 2021, China attracted \$17 billion for start-ups in artificial intelligence, making up nearly one-fifth of all global private investment funding. In 2021, China accounted for around one-third of global research output in AI journal papers and AI citations. According to research, AI has the potential to provide up to \$600 billion in economic value for the nation each year. China will probably keep spending money on AI to help its industrial, transportation, and defense industries. Finally, the production and dissemination of semiconductors will be essential to the advancement of artificial intelligence. China will make certain that data produced by AI serves the objectives of the Communist Party of China (CCP). China, however, will strategically use AI to further its technological and commercial objectives on a global scale, having recognized its economic potential.<sup>4</sup>

China has increased its investment in its state of surveillance as well. As per a formal instruction issued in 2015, the party-state is required to build a "multidimensional" information-based prevention and control system for public and social security," the national military budget of China

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<sup>4</sup> "How Does China's Approach To AI Regulation Differ From The US And The EU," Forbes, 18 Jul 2023, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeseq/2023/07/18/how-does-chinas-approach-to-ai-regulation-differ-from-the-us-and-eu/?sh=41099288351c>.

has not been surpassed by the amount of money that local and provincial governments have put into domestic security. The majority of the investment has gone toward public surveillance technologies and back-end analytical platforms that utilize the collected data to enhance governance and uphold social order.<sup>5</sup>

## **How Should the Global South React?**

Priorities and viewpoints from the industry and other countries have largely shaped the AI governance discussion up to this point. Research from 2019 has already demonstrated how the private sector led the majority of the important international texts on artificial intelligence and ethics and how the Global South was underrepresented in these conversations. To take part in the international talks on AI, Global South nations must have a shared and practical agenda. A concrete commitment to advance processes that are still a debt for several countries regarding transparency, accountability from the public sector, and data protection is required, even though some progress has been made in conversations within the African Union and Latin America.<sup>6</sup> It is true that AI may promote societies that are more equitable and sustainable. However, the circumstances surrounding its creation, implementation, and evaluation will determine this. AI cannot and will not, by itself, resolve historical social issues. It is just another technology. Thus far, there is mounting evidence that the development and application of AI has already had an impact on the practice of fundamental human rights, especially for historically excluded populations. Hence, it is crucially important for the global South to cooperate in the AI sector and voice its concerns. Otherwise, like in many other aspects, this will also become a problem which the South is not prepared to deal with.

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<sup>5</sup> Sheena Chestnut Greitens, “Xi Jinping’s Quest for Order”, *Foreign Affairs*, 3 Oct 2022, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/xi-jinping-quest-order>.

<sup>6</sup> Jamila Venturini, “AI governance for and from the Global South,” *Medium*, 19 Dec 2023, <https://medium.com/opendatacharter/ai-governance-for-and-from-the-global-south-07326645b053>.



*Source: LinkedIn*

Impacts on human rights resulting from AI may involve a range of transgressions that frequently may (and should) be avoided by using current safeguards and procedures rather than creating new ones. Global human rights specialists have already furnished directives regarding the operationalization of this to avert additional damage, and global organizations such as the United Nations Human Rights Council persistently push for norms to safeguard human rights against the perils of cutting-edge and developing digital technologies. Principle-based legislation or general ethical frameworks won't work to safeguard our populations. Even worse, they run the risk of confirming technologies that are known to be harmful or undermining already-existing rights and obligations. This is the case, for example, with facial recognition technologies, which are being employed in the Global South for a variety of purposes.

## **Conclusion:**

With the progress in AI based technology, world order is also being changed majorly. The global North is certainly much more advanced in this sector and if the global South does not follow suit, the countries in the South would suffer very poorly. However, these countries do not have the required resources to develop their AI industry. On the contrary, the big powers such as the US, China and Russia are using every resource they can to develop this industry and influence geopolitics to shift the world order.