Artificial Intelligence in International Relations: Impacts, Challenges, and Implications for Security and the Structure of International Interactions.

الذكاء الاصطناعي في العلاقات الدولية: التأثيرات، التحديات، والتداعيات على الأمن وبنية التفاعلات الدولية.

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Abstract:

As a transformative technological advancement, artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly reshaped international relations, moving them beyond traditional frameworks. This research examines AI's influence on global power dynamics, diplomatic decision-making, and cybersecurity, highlighting its capacity to enhance efficiency, predict crises, and support negotiations. At the same time, the study addresses the challenges posed by unequal access to AI, the risks of technological dependency for developing states, and the potential misuse of AI in military and intelligence domains.

These developments carry profound implications for global security, potentially accelerating conflicts, cyber threats, and surveillance, while also affecting human societies by reshaping labor, governance, and social stability. Understanding both the opportunities and the risks of AI is therefore essential for states seeking to harness its benefits while mitigating its disruptive impacts on international peace and security.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Structure of International Relations; Global Security ;Cybersecurity ; Conflicts Resolution; Diplomacy.

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Introduction

Currently, our world has witnessed profound transformations and remarkable development in the field of artificial intelligence. This field aims to develop systems and programs that can simulate human intelligence. It impacts all life domains, including education, business, medicine, and international relations.

Artificial intelligence has become a powerful driver of change. It reshapes the foundations of human interaction, power, and even international diplomacy. It is used in analysis and forecasting, conflict prediction, deception and decision-making related to war and weapons. Thus, artificial intelligence redefines the nature of international relations.

As states, organisations, and non-governmental institutions adopt AI-based tools, the dynamics of power, sovereignty, and global governance might encounter severe challenges. Therefore, the present study aims to explore the impacts of artificial intelligence on international relations and examine how this transformative technology can change diplomatic decision-making processes, global security, economic power balances, and international cooperation mechanisms.

The use of artificial intelligence in international relations poses a challenge in light of the geopolitical tension, competition, injustice, and inequality in technology that the world is experiencing to

day. It can also raise concerns about existence, especially since the use of this technical tool is not limited only to research or industry; it is a new technology in the geopolitical arena, including national security systems, decision-making mechanisms, negotiation strategies, and even the foreign policy outputs of major powers.

Due to its capacity to analyse data, predict scenarios, and make semi-autonomous decisions, artificial intelligence undermines the structure of international relations. These transformations are considered extremely dangerous as they are not occurring in a balanced manner between the developed North and the developing South. However, they deepen the technological and knowledge gap between them, and lead to what can be called algorithmic or electronic colonialism, where a few countries monopolise intelligence tools and cyber hegemony. In contrast, the other ones are being held hostage to decisions and systems they did not even participate in creating.

In light of the above, the main research problem of this paper is as follows:

In light of the rapid development of artificial intelligence, how does this technological shift affect the structure of international relations, and what are the associated opportunities and challenges for enhancing security, cooperation, or managing conflicts?

- Significance of the Study

This study is significant as it helps in understanding the relationship between artificial intelligence and international relations. It focuses on the aspects that artificial intelligence affects in this field, especially since it pays attention to many

actors in the international system, as well as researchers and scholars, because it is an effective engine of growth and prosperity.

- Aims of the Study

This study aims to shed light on the concept of artificial intelligence and its relationship with international relations. It also seeks to understand its impact on the structure of international relations by focusing on the fields that artificial intelligence targets.

Firstly: Artificial Intelligence in International Relations: Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

Before addressing the key elements of artificial intelligence in international relations, it is important to define these concepts.

1. Definition of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is an ambiguous concept that has been defined differently by researchers based on their perspectives and orientations. Therefore, no single definition for this term, and a general agreement is established [(1)].

Some scholars defined artificial intelligence as a scientific discipline that emerges from engineering science and the manufacture and programming of machines, in a way that makes these machines resemble human thinking and behaviours. Others stated that it is "designing machines in a way that enables them to do things that the human mind does." Artificial intelligence can also be defined as a set of technologies that enable machines to simulate human cognitive functions necessary for independent intellectual tasks, such as logical thinking. It can also collect a lot of information and provide customised recommendations, alternatives, and solutions to complex problems.

"*Copeland* and *Broadfoot*" defined artificial intelligence as the process of developing automated computer systems that can perform all the tasks of human intelligence. It is a set of behaviours that characterise computer programs and simulate human mental capabilities and work patterns [(2)]. It enables the machine to simulate the human mind and its capacity for thinking and exploration. As computers can perform complex tasks, artificial intelligence can now prove complex mathematical theories, play chess with high skill, complete tasks quickly and accurately, and store huge amounts of data. Despite its development, artificial intelligence lacks programs that can match the human mind in terms of analytical inferential tasks [(3)].

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be described also as a relatively young field of study (about sixty years old) that integrates multiple sciences and techniques — including mathematical logic, statistics, probability, computational neuroscience, and computer science — with the aim of enabling machines to mimic human cognitive abilities. According to the IBM definition cited, AI uses computers and machines to solve problems and make decisions by imitating the human mind[(4)].

artificial intelligence refers to the use of computers to simulate the behavior of humans that requires intelligence.14 Put another way, AI can be thought of as the ability of an artificial agent to achieve goals in a "wide range of environments[(5)].

Automated systems,operate based on multiple pre-programmed logic steps as opposed to the simplicity of a tripwire [(6)]. Autonomous systems have more latitude and are programmed, within constraints, to achieve goals, optimizing along a set of parameters [(7)].

Artificial intelligence can generally be understood through two principal approaches. The first is symbolic AI, which is based on expert systems and rule-based reasoning that enable machines to infer and follow behavioral pathways. A well-known example is IBM's Deep Blue, which defeated Garry Kasparov in 1997 [(8)].The second is the computational or connectionist approach, which allows machines to identify patterns and make decisions through calculation rather than symbolic representation.Within this framework, machine learning constitutes a central method, relying on techniques such as Bayesian networks, decision trees, and deep learning. The latter, in particular, uses neural networks to train algorithms to perform specific tasks, including image recognition.In addition, some scholars advocate hybrid approaches that combine symbolic and computational models in order to improve learning processes and enhance algorithmic effectiveness[(9)].

2. Artificial Intelligence in International Relations: A Review of the Literature

Academic research in international relations (IR) generally addresses artificial intelligence (AI) across four main dimensions: balance of power, governance, disinformation, and ethics. These dimensions often overlap, with AI examined within traditional theoretical frameworks, while new concepts are occasionally developed to capture its growing influence on the international system.

According to much literature and studies, artificial intelligence encompasses several strategic fields, including:

- **The Relationship between Balance of Power and Artificial Intelligence**:

artificial intelligence matters in international relations not simply because of its technological novelty, but because it may reshape the balance of power through both military and economic channels. Rather than being a specific weapon system, AI is better understood as an enabling technology, similar to electricity or the internal combustion engine, due to its wide applicability across sectors and military functions.28 Its geopolitical effects may therefore be broader and more structural than those of conventional weapons systems[(10)].

The technological innovation does not automatically transform international politics; its impact depends on how states and military institutions adopt, integrate, and exploit it.9 As with past military innovations, strategic advantage may belong less to the inventor than to the actor best able to use the technology effectively in organizational and doctrinal terms[(11)].

The AI's impact on the balance of power depends on whether militarily relevant AI remains largely dual-use and commercially driven, or whether it evolves into more militarily exclusive applications [(12)].If AI innovation continues to be driven primarily by the private sector and remains closely linked to civilian applications, then military uses of AI are likely to diffuse rapidly across states. In such a scenario, first-mover advantages would be limited, and AI could narrow capability gaps among rivals rather than decisively concentrate power in the hands of a single state. This could reduce asymmetries not only between major powers such as the United States and China, but also among other competitors[(13)].

Using adoption capacity theory, the effects of AI depend not only on which state develops it first, but also on which states possess the financial, organizational, and institutional capacity to transform it into usable military power [(14)].AI may also affect the balance of power through its impact on economic strength, as leadership in AI-based industries can reinforce long-term geopolitical influence [(15)].

Artificial intelligence is still viewed as a key factor in shaping geopolitical competition between major powers, especially between the United States and China. Recent studies indicated that China is working to become a leading power in artificial intelligence through massive investments in research and development, while the United States is trying to maintain its technological superiority by enhancing cooperation with allies and restricting the export of advanced technology to Beijing[(16)]. They also showed that artificial intelligence enhances military capabilities. However, some researchers argue that the impact of artificial intelligence on the balance of power is exaggerated, as it still relies on traditional infrastructure and human abilities[(17)].

Ultimately, AI is presented as an emerging arena of great-power competition, particularly between the United States and China. Although its strategic implications remain uncertain, its impact on the balance of power will largely depend on whether it diffuses broadly across states or produces new asymmetries in favor of technologically advanced powers[(18)].

- **AI Governance Methods**:

Artificial intelligence has become one of the most influential emerging technologies of the twenty-first century, generating profound transformations across economic, political, and security domains. As its applications expand rapidly, the need for effective governance has become increasingly urgent. AI governance encompasses the legal, ethical, and institutional frameworks that seek to regulate the development and use of AI technologies while addressing their risks and ensuring their responsible integration into society and international affairs[(19)].

In recent years, significant advancements have been made in the governance of artificial intelligence, with new regulatory initiatives emerging at both regional and international levels. For instance, the European Union adopted the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act) in 2023, which aims to regulate the use of AI based on risk

levels][20]. Similarly, the United Nations established a High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence in 2023 to promote international cooperation in this domain.

However, research indicates that global AI governance faces considerable challenges, including the absence of a binding legal framework and the lack of clear definitions for common risks.

Moreover, existing initiatives remain inconsistent, as countries adopt differing approaches based on their national interests, hindering the achievement of international consensus [(21)].

- Disinformation, False Information, and Artificial Intelligence: Artificial intelligence has become a powerful tool for misleading and false information, especially with the development of deep-fake technologies. Recent studies revealed that artificial intelligence is increasingly used to enhance disinformation and media manipulation campaigns in electoral and geopolitical conflict contexts.

In this context, the Brookings Institution published an article titled "How AI and Disinformation Affect Elections?" highlighting how AI technologies, such as deep-fakes, are used to mislead voters and spread false information during electoral periods. On the other hand, Reuters reported that Russia uses generative artificial intelligence to intensify disinformation campaigns against Ukraine, making them harder to detect and increasing their global impact. These examples illustrate how artificial intelligence can be used as a powerful tool in spreading misleading information, so it is essential to develop regulatory frameworks and counter-technologies to address these challenges. However, there is still debate about the extent of AI's impact on disinformation[(22)].

- **The Relationship between Ethics and Artificial Intelligence**: In the military and diplomatic fields, ethical issues related to artificial intelligence occur when machines make decisions without direct human intervention. Researchers viewed that the responsibility gap that arises when autonomous weapon systems make decisions that may lead to serious harm without the ability to identify the direct human responsible for them. What complicates this gap is the possibility of holding individuals or responsible parties accountable, which raises ethical and legal questions about the use of such systems in armed conflicts [(23)].

The impact of artificial intelligence on human institutions is also highlighted, with some studies suggesting that increasing reliance on AI may diminish individuals' capacity for independent decision-making. In addition, the role of AI in either reinforcing or undermining democratic values is explored, particularly in contexts of mass surveillance and restrictions on individual freedoms [(24)]

3. The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence as a Non-Traditional Actor in the International relations.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a relatively recent field, spanning a few decades, that integrates science, theory, and technology to simulate human cognitive abilities through machines [(25)]. Leveraging big data and machine learning, AI identifies patterns in complex datasets and enhances decision-making processes. Historically,

its development reflects humanity's pursuit of intelligent tools, but its full potential emerged with the shift from rule-based systems to self-learning models in the late 20th century . In recent years, AI has become a transformative force across multiple sectors, including diplomacy and international relations [26].

Artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved beyond a mere technical tool for industrial efficiency or technological innovation; it has become an integral actor in international affairs, reshaping the logic of power and influence among states. This unprecedented technological shift provides new analytical and forecasting capabilities, enabling AI to indirectly shape political decisions, guide diplomatic interactions, and influence states' positions on sensitive international issues [(27)].

AI's strategic significance stems not only from its analytical capacities but also from its role as a sovereign source of knowledge and control over information flows. This positions AI within the realm of "smart power," influencing opinion formation and policy trends within international organizations and across global public opinion. States equipped with advanced digital infrastructure and algorithms can more effectively steer negotiations and influence the behavior of other international actors, gradually redefining geopolitical balances [(28)].

Recent Arab studies highlight that AI is no longer just an intermediary or supporting tool; it has become a "silent power" reshaping influence in international relations through digital instruments capable of monitoring strategic indicators, generating real-time negotiation alternatives, and creating new patterns of interaction in cyberspace. Consequently, AI now constitutes a core component of the so-called "algorithmic non-state actor," which, while stateless and lacking legal sovereignty, exerts substantial influence over political and diplomatic outcomes at both regional and global levels [(29)].

As states grapple with increasingly complex global challenges—from climate change to cybersecurity threats—AI presents both opportunities and risks for policymaking, foreign affairs management, and the structuring of domestic and international economies. Projections suggest that AI's contribution to the global economy could reach $15.7 trillion by 2030 [(30)].

4- International Relations Theory and Artificial Intelligence

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into global affairs has prompted a reevaluation of traditional frameworks in international relations (IR). While classical theories such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism provide analytical tools to understand state behavior, power dynamics, and normative structures, the emergence of AI as a strategic and knowledge-based resource introduces new variables that challenge conventional assumptions. AI's capabilities in data processing, predictive analysis, and autonomous decision-making extend state power beyond conventional military, economic, or diplomatic tools, creating what can be described as a "non-traditional" actor in the international system.

This evolution raises critical questions for IR theory: How does AI influence the distribution and exercise of power among states? Can existing frameworks adequately capture the role of algorithmic agents in shaping policy, international negotiations, and security strategies? And how should governance mechanisms adapt to accommodate the dual-use nature of AI, which can both enhance national capabilities and introduce systemic risks? Addressing these questions requires bridging technological understanding with theoretical inquiry, emphasizing the ways in which AI reshapes the logic of influence, decision-making, and strategic interaction on the global stage.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) has introduced a transformative dimension to international relations, challenging traditional assumptions about power, agency, and global order. AI is no longer merely a technological tool; it acts as a strategic force influencing state behavior, diplomatic interactions, and decision-making processes. Its integration into security, economic, and informational domains reshapes the balance of power and creates new avenues for cooperation and conflict. Traditional IR theories, including realism, liberalism, and critical approaches, must be reconsidered to account for AI's pervasive effects, highlighting the need for interdisciplinary frameworks that can capture its implications for global governance, norms, and international stability [(31)].

The realist theory of international relations is one of the major schools that views international politics as a permanent struggle for power and military force, as well as the only tool for maintaining states' interests and security. Although this theory is important in understanding international relations of conflict and cooperation, it has faced challenges. It failed to explain many developments in the international arena [(32)]. For example, it cannot predict the end of the Cold War or explain the existence of military alliances, though the causes of their formation have disappeared. At the same time, international relations theory struggles to keep pace with technological advancement. In the past, it neglected the role of technology in shaping global politics. Thus, few research works gave importance to this topic; for example, the father of cybernetics, Norbert Wiener, studied the effect of rapid technological change on international relations. However, these works remain marginal in reality when compared to the prevailing theories of international relations.

This gap hinders the ability of international relations to analyse the geopolitical effects of artificial intelligence. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach that includes insights from other fields would enhance their ability to address technological change. Instead of accepting that theory cannot keep up, it is necessary to reconsider fundamental questions about the nature and purpose of politics; this new orientation can guide efforts to understand, organise, and govern new technologies effectively[(33)].

However, this cannot prevent seeing the impacts of artificial intelligence on international relations, where analysis technologies and policy-making, including scenario-building and future forecasting processes, are developing significantly, and there is actual use of many applications in the fields of international politics and global governance [(34)].

Secondly : The impacts of Artificial Intelligence on International Relations Structure.

Artificial intelligence has left clear imprint in many areas of politics and international relations. It has brought major transformation in work methods and decision-making mechanisms. It has had a significant impact on the structure of international relations, especially when many fields have been targeted by this digital tool. The most prominent of these fields are presented below:

1. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Enhancing Diplomacy:

Diplomacy has become an important field for artificial intelligence applications, which has revolutionised the way of thinking, planning, and diplomatic decision-making. It can also analyse huge amounts of data related to political, economic, and social events. Additionally, it enables decision-makers to obtain accurate and in-depth insights that are difficult to achieve by traditional means.

The use of advanced algorithms enables artificial intelligence systems to identify hidden patterns and emerging trends in international relations.This provides diplomats a competitive advantage in preparing for negotiations and understanding the positions of other parties in an unprecedented way[(35)]. For example, when preparing for an international summit or bilateral meeting, artificial intelligence can provide potential negotiation scenarios, based on analysing state behaviours, political discourse tone, and even interactions in the media. This not only helps enhance strategic planning, but also contributes to achieving balance between interests in more scientific and accurate ways [(36)].

At a more practical level, AI can also assist diplomats in managing the growing volume of information by identifying relevant patterns and insights that support more effective decision-making. It can also be used to run strategic scenarios, whereby different options and possible courses of action are processed to estimate likely outcomes [(37).]

In light of the growing complexity of international negotiations and the multiplicity of actors involved, artificial intelligence has become a central tool in supporting diplomatic work, particularly in the fields of negotiation and the drafting of international agreements. It has provided advanced capabilities in analyzing positions, processing large volumes of data, forecasting scenarios, and simulating potential reactions, thereby helping negotiators better understand the interests of the parties, identify points of convergence and divergence, and propose more flexible and realistic alternatives.17 In addition, intelligent translation technologies and the generation of multilingual legal texts have contributed to facilitating communication and improving the accuracy of contractual drafting. In this context, artificial

intelligence helps reduce the time required for negotiations, overcome deadlocks, and enhance the prospects of reaching consensual solutions based on a win-win logic[38].

2. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Conflict Prevention and Resolution :

According to many academic analysts, predictive models that depend on artificial intelligence are useful in preventing conflicts and developing solutions for them. Based on conflict-related data analysis of historical information as well as current indicators, artificial intelligence can predict potential conflicts and take preventive measures[39]. AI can detect conflict patterns, anticipate crises, and strengthen early warning and response systems, making conflict prevention more effective[40].

Early warning systems powered by artificial intelligence assess conflict escalation and enable timely intervention. For example, the VIEWS project uses machine learning techniques to predict conflicts and their societal impacts, providing policymakers with valuable insights. This reflects the use of artificial intelligence in predicting and managing conflict as a major transformation in international relations, enhancing international cooperation, and promoting global stability [41].

International organizations, foremost among them the United Nations, have also begun to employ it in mediation, peacebuilding, and the analysis of complex conflicts. However, these roles remain contingent upon maintaining human oversight, ensuring algorithmic transparency, and respecting political, ethical, and sovereign consideration[42].

AI is already applied in mediation and peacebuilding, from facilitating digital dialogue to drafting agreements and monitoring ceasefire violations, thus reducing harm to peacekeepers and civilians[43].AI tools can also transform divisive rhetoric into more constructive language, helping to de-escalate tensions before conflicts arise[44].

Despite its promise, AI and ML face challenges such as data quality, model transparency, ethical concerns, and potential misuse. Responsible governance and multilateral cooperation are essential to maximize benefits and mitigate risks. When applied ethically and collaboratively, AI can significantly support global peace and security by enhancing, rather than replacing, human decision-making[45].

3. Autonomous weapons and military strategy:

Artificial intelligence is significant in the development of autonomous weapons systems that can make decisions without direct human intervention. It enables these systems to enhance accuracy, reduce risks to human soldiers, and accelerate military operations[46].

where AI is being integrated into threat detection and response systems, often through Human-in-the-Loop Systems (HITLS) in which final decisions remain under human control. Such developments may reshape the international system much as previous military transformations once did, especially given AI’s growing strategic significance.

AI is also becoming a crucial tool in espionage and intelligence, whether through surveillance, the restriction of foreign agents, or the production of destabilizing disinformation such as fake news and influence campaigns [47].

Looking at the effective role of artificial intelligence, indicators of the shift towards technological armament have diversified to include the following [48]:

- **An Increase in Military Research and Development Spending**: Nowadays, many countries increase their defence budgets for scientific research and technological purposes, at the expense of purchasing conventional weapons. For example, in 2025, the US Department of Defence (Pentagon) allocated about $895 billion to develop military capabilities, while China spent $245.7 billion on defence.
- **New Concepts in Military Strategy:** Recently, armies have adopted the new concepts of network warfare and multi-domain battle, which integrate conventional forces, cyber capabilities, and space into artificial intelligence. They also employ unmanned systems on land, sea, and air, including combat robots, drones, and autonomous submarines. They apply systems that can make field decisions without direct human intervention, within certain limits. In addition, many countries have reorganised their armies to keep up with modern technology. They create specialised units in cyber warfare and introduce technical specialisations within military academies. Thus, the conflict between major powers, such as the United States, China, Russia, and France, is no longer measured by the number of tanks or missiles, but by their ability to develop algorithms, control data, and dominate cyberspace [49].

4. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Achieving Global Cybersecurity:

Artificial intelligence develops cybersecurity through advanced tools that accurately detect and respond to threats. It can analyse data to identify anomalous patterns of potential cyber attacks, as well as immediately counter threats, such as blocking malicious software or isolating infected systems. It also helps predict future attacks by analysing past data and providing preventive strategies. In addition, it is used to analyse vulnerabilities within systems and networks to address gaps or provide recommendations for remediation.

Moreover, it improves data security through encryption and detection of unauthorised access and enhances identity verification using facial and voice recognition. Artificial intelligence supports anti-phishing by analysing emails and websites. By adapting to threats and reducing costs, AI can create security systems for protecting individuals and organisations from cyber threats.

Indeed, artificial intelligence systems make life-and-death decisions without human supervision, raising ethical and legal questions. Ethical governance is critical in preventing abuses and maintaining international standards, which represents a real challenge for human society [50].

Thirdly : Impacts and Challenges of the Artificial Intelligence for the Global Security and Human Societies

Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force with far-reaching implications for international relations. While it offers significant opportunities for innovation and strategic advancement, it also generates major challenges linked to economic disruption, algorithmic bias, privacy erosion, surveillance, autonomous weapons, and environmental costs. As a result, AI increasingly represents not only a technological development, but also a central issue of global governance, international security, and geopolitical competition, requiring coordinated and ethically grounded regulatory responses. From an international relations perspective, these evolving concerns can be analytically organized into several major challenge areas, each of which reflects the ways in which AI is reshaping global power structures, security calculations, and patterns of international interaction (51).

In this context, the main challenges associated with the use of artificial intelligence in international relations can be identified through a set of interconnected dimensions that reflect its growing impact on economic structures, governance systems, security dynamics, and the broader international order. These challenges are as follows:

1- Economic Disruption and Labor Market Shifts

Ideally, AI-driven production could decentralize manufacturing, boost self-reliance, and reduce dependency on other nations. However, the immediate economic impact raises major concerns, as millions of jobs—both blue-collar and white-collar—may be replaced by AI, from hazardous labor to tasks requiring higher cognitive skills.

AI development is occurring on an unequal global playing field. Economically and technologically advanced nations are likely to adopt automation first, producing goods and services at competitive rates that could exacerbate international inequalities. Within countries, disadvantaged populations may suffer most; while AI also creates new jobs, opportunities generally favor those with education and training, leaving poorer workers behind(52).

AI is reshaping labor markets by automating tasks and transforming employment structures. Although it may generate new professional opportunities, it is also expected to displace substantial numbers of jobs, with up to 40% of global employment exposed to AI-related transformation . Low-income countries appear particularly vulnerable due to weaker social protection systems and limited adaptive capacity . These dynamics highlight the importance of reskilling**,** upskilling**,** and adaptive social protection measures to prevent AI-driven transformations from deepening existing inequalities (53).

2- Algorithmic Bias and Systemic Inequities

AI systems can reproduce and intensify social inequalities when trained on biased datasets or developed without sufficient oversight (54). Evidence from sectors

such as hiring, healthcare, finance, and insurance indicates that biased AI systems may disproportionately disadvantage already marginalized groups. These risks are further aggravated by the underrepresentation of the Global South in AI training datasets(55). Addressing these concerns requires fairness audits**,** diverse development teams, continuous monitoring, and compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks, including the GDPR and the EU AI Act (56).

3- Privacy Erosion and Surveillance Capabilities

AI significantly expands the capacity for surveillance, data extraction, and behavioral monitoring, raising major concerns regarding privacy, autonomy, and democratic integrity. Both governments and corporations increasingly rely on AI-enabled systems for data-driven control, while deepfakes amplify the risks of misinformation, reputational harm, and manipulation (57). Although technical mechanisms such as differential privacy and federated learning can mitigate some of these concerns, effective governance also requires strong legal safeguards, transparency mechanisms, explainable AI (XAI), and enhanced cybersecurity protections (58).

4- Autonomous Weapons and Global Security Dilemmas

AI has accelerated the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), generating serious ethical, legal, and strategic concerns. Such systems may lower the threshold for armed conflict, increase the risk of escalation, and weaken meaningful human control over lethal decisions. Despite growing international concern, including the 2024 United Nations General Assembly resolution, multilateral negotiations remain limited, particularly with regard to the application of international humanitarian law to autonomous weapons. These developments underscore the need for binding international norms and stronger multilateral oversight to reduce security risks and preserve global stability (59).

5- Environmental Costs and Existential Risks

AI systems consume substantial amounts of energy and water, generating significant environmental costs and complicating efforts to achieve climate goals. At the same time, AI can also contribute to climate action through optimization, efficiency gains, and improved environmental modeling . This dual impact has strengthened interest in Green AI, which emphasizes sustainability, efficiency, and environmentally responsible technological development(60).

Beyond environmental concerns, growing attention is also being directed toward long-term existential risks associated with **a**rtificial general intelligence (AGI) and superintelligence, particularly the alignment problem—that is, whether highly advanced AI systems can remain aligned with human values and intentions (61). Although uncertainty persists regarding the scale and timing of these risks, their potentially severe consequences justify continued investment in AI safety**,** alignment, and control research (62).

6- Geopolitical Risks of Artificial Intelligence for Developing Countries: Developing countries have gained some opportunities to benefit from technology

transfer through international partnerships, as well as applying artificial intelligence in education, healthcare, and agriculture. However, the positive potential of AI is counterbalanced by significant challenges. The persistent digital divide, continued economic and technological dependence on advanced nations, and weak cybersecurity infrastructure make these countries vulnerable to domination or cyber intrusion by major powers. Consequently, developing nations risk remaining in a state of technological dependency across digital domains, with their economic programs tightly linked to advanced economies(63).

In light of the above **,** The main implications and challenges posed by artificial intelligence in international relations can be summarized as follows:

– Technology companies can shift the balance of power in favour of one country against the other. For example, during the 2022 Russian-Ukrainian war, SpaceX helped the Ukrainian navy attack Russian naval targets in the Black Sea fleet. A Russian hacking group was also able to launch ransomware attacks against US financial companies to fund Russia's military efforts in Ukraine.

– Smart technologies can be used in cyber attacks targeting the infrastructure of countries, such as dams, airports, railways, water and electricity networks, and nuclear power plants. They can also be used by extremist organisations or gangs in smuggling operations and threats to international security.

– The impact of technology and artificial intelligence on state sovereignty. As technology advances, the internal and external sovereign capabilities decline.

– The elimination of internal privacy. All data becomes transparent and accessible, and any state can collect detailed information about citizens and their tendencies. This threatens to spark internal crises or international relations.

– The repercussions of smart applications on internal issues, such as democracy, human rights, and elections, and the fear of their exploitation in violating rights and freedoms. Henry Kissinger stated that freedom of expression should not extend to artificial intelligence and should remain exclusive to humans (64) .

– Job losses: With technological advances, many human jobs will be replaced by machines, which may lead to a decline in human skills and the disappearance of some jobs (65).

Conclusion

This paper has shown that artificial intelligence (AI) has become an inevitable and transformative reality in today’s world, reshaping international relations and redefining diplomatic and negotiation practices among states.

AI’s significance lies in its capacity to analyze large datasets, anticipate crises, and provide innovative solutions for conflict resolution, thereby enhancing decision-making efficiency and fostering dialogue between international actors. It also plays a pivotal role in critical sectors such as the economy, health, education, and cybersecurity, with the latter emerging as a strategic domain that determines a nation’s and society’s resilience against digital threats and cyberattacks.

At the same time, AI presents serious challenges, creating new problems that impact global security and alter the functioning of human societies. Key concerns include widening digital divides between developed and developing countries, reinforcing technological dependence, increasing risks of cyber warfare, and expanding surveillance and control mechanisms. Unregulated applications may disrupt the balance between the benefits of AI and the protection of human rights and security.

As a result, artificial intelligence can be regarded as a double-edged sword that may enhance security and stability in international relations, but may also generate new forms of wars and conflicts among states and non-state actors.

Recommendations

In light of the foregoing discussion, this study puts forward the following recommendations:

- Responsible AI policies should be adopted, including algorithmic transparency, equitable access to technology, clear ethical and political frameworks, as well as international cooperation and oversight. Moreover, capacity-building and human training are essential to ensure that societies and states can effectively integrate AI, harnessing its benefits to promote peace, security, and global stability while mitigating its negative effects and complexities.
- The use of artificial intelligence in international relations should be governed, as it offers opportunities in data analysis, future prediction, and international transformations.
- The use of AI applications in fundamental issues, such as human rights and democracy, should resolve the political debate about the future of these technologies on political and civil rights.
- AI governance is increasingly seen as requiring a flexible, inclusive, and internationally coordinated framework. In this regard, a risk-based regulatory model, similar to the one embodied in the EU AI Act, appears particularly promising, as it combines limits on harmful applications with stricter supervision of high-risk systems
- supporting participatory, community-based research, particularly through the inclusion of marginalized groups, in order to ensure that AI governance remains socially just, inclusive, and globally representative.
- Arab countries should keep pace with the evolving dynamics of international relations by strengthening their technological infrastructure and accelerating their digital transformation. In this context, they should also establish specialized national bodies or authorities dedicated to artificial intelligence in order to benefit from the expertise, regulatory experiences, and best practices developed by leading and technologically advanced countries. Such measures would not only enhance their domestic AI capabilities but also improve their position in global competitiveness and innovation indicators.

Margins:

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