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Application of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Modern Armed Conflicts: A Case Study of the Gaza War and Its Strategic Implications

Seyed Jalal Dehghani Firouzabadi¹

Fahimeh Maghferat²

Abstract

In recent decades, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative and influential technologies in the realm of modern warfare. The development of decision-support systems, big data analytics, and precision targeting tools has given rise to a new form of armed conflict in which advanced technologies play a central role in shaping military strategies. Among contemporary examples, the Gaza War stands out as a large-scale testing ground for Israeli regime's extensive use of AI in military operations. Adopting an analytical and critical approach, this study examines the application of intelligent systems such as *Lavender* and *The Gospel* in Israeli regime's military operations. The findings indicate that while the use of AI has significantly increased the speed and efficiency of target identification and elimination, it has simultaneously generated profound challenges in the domains of human rights, ethical accountability, and the political legitimacy of military actions. Field data and reports from international organizations reveal that the error rate of these systems heightens the risk of civilian harm, thereby underscoring the urgent need to reassess existing international legal frameworks. Ultimately, this article explores the strategic and geopolitical implications of AI utilization in the Gaza conflict and emphasizes the necessity of developing transparent international protocols for oversight, control, and accountability in the deployment of such technologies in future armed conflicts.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Gaza War, Smart Targeting, Human Rights, International Security

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

In recent decades, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies has fundamentally reshaped the nature of modern warfare. The integration of machine learning algorithms with big data analytics has enabled the creation of decision-support systems and automated targeting tools capable of processing vast volumes of behavioral, spatial, and communication data in real time. While these systems have significantly increased operational efficiency and speed, they have also blurred the boundaries between human and algorithmic decision-making. This development raises serious concerns about ethics, accountability, and the legitimacy of the use of force. The 2023–2024 Gaza conflict represents one of the earliest large-scale deployments of AI-based warfare systems and provides a unique opportunity to examine the operational, humanitarian, and geopolitical implications of algorithmic warfare.

Literature Review

Literature of the issue under investigation, have mainly concentrated on two broad dimensions. The first concerns the technological and military transformation caused by AI, focusing on its role in command, control, and deterrence, as discussed by Singer (2009), Scharre (2018), and the RAND Corporation (2021). The second deals with the ethical and legal implications of autonomous weapon systems, highlighted in the works of Crootof (2021) and Goetze (2022). In Persian-language literature, Eslami and Ansari (2021) as well as Amini-Nia and Afshari (2023) have examined state responsibility in the use of AI weaponry, particularly in relation to violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza. However, these studies remain largely theoretical and do not address the operational and empirical dimensions of AI systems in real-world conflicts. This article fills that gap through an interdisciplinary and data-based analysis of AI systems deployed in the Gaza conflict.

Methodology

This study employs a descriptive and analytical approach combined with qualitative content analysis. It draws on secondary data sources including reports from international organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, as well as assessments by the RAND Corporation and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Technical analyses of the Lavender and Gospel systems are also reviewed to understand their operational mechanisms and ethical implications.

Discussion

Findings indicate that the Lavender system, based on behavioral pattern recognition and probabilistic modeling, enabled the Israeli military to identify and classify thousands of potential targets within a short time. Although this increased the pace of decision-making, it also reduced human oversight and led to algorithmic errors that caused civilian casualties. The Gospel system, which integrates multiple data streams including geospatial and signal intelligence, enhanced real-time targeting efficiency but also contributed to serious violations of humanitarian principles such as distinction and proportionality.

From a strategic perspective, Israeli regime's integration of AI into its military operations represents more than a technological innovation. It demonstrates a shift toward a new model of informational and algorithmic deterrence that redefines the balance of power in asymmetric conflicts. This transformation reflects the emergence of data-driven geopolitics, where control over information and algorithmic capability has become a decisive factor in military dominance. Such trends may intensify a new phase of technological competition and algorithmic arms races in the Middle East.

Conclusion

This study concludes that while AI enhances speed, precision, and efficiency in modern warfare, its unregulated use, undermines the ethical and legal foundations of international humanitarian law. The findings highlight the urgent need for an international framework to regulate the military use of AI and to ensure that lethal decision-making remains under meaningful human control. The Gaza conflict demonstrates both the operational potential and the humanitarian dangers of algorithmic warfare, underscoring the necessity of transparent and enforceable global governance to prevent future misuse.

Examining Public Diplomacy and Its Interplay with Algorithmic Diplomacy: How Iran's National Image is Constructed in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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Parham Pour-Ramezan²*

Abstract

In the age of globalization, we are witnessing a transformation in power patterns in the international arena; in a way that soft power has replaced hard power. This shift has increased the importance of public diplomacy in international relations. Meanwhile, the emergence of new technologies like Artificial Intelligence has had a significant impact on shaping national perceptions and the international image of countries. Accordingly, the research question is: What role can AI play in improving or changing the national image of countries within the framework of public diplomacy? The aim of this research is to investigate the extent and manner of AI's influence on the process of shaping Iran's national image in global public opinion.

Using a qualitative research method, the authors seek to test the hypothesis that AI, by leveraging capabilities such as big data analysis, targeted content production, and management of social interactions, can play an effective role in redefining and improving national image. The results of the qualitative data analysis indicate that in areas such as public sentiment analysis, creating personalized messages, and prediction of international feedback, AI can assist policymakers in optimizing public diplomacy strategies and significantly increase the effectiveness of national image-building.

However, challenges such as the potential for information manipulation, erosion of public trust, and ethical considerations are among the risks that must be seriously considered. Furthermore, AI's ability for real-time monitoring of data from social networks, digital media, and news sources enables the rapid correction of incorrect or distorted narratives about the national image and brand, paving the way for enhancing their status and credibility in global public opinion.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Communication Algorithms, National Image, Public Diplomacy, Iran

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

In the contemporary world, technological advancements are progressing at an unprecedented pace, gradually erasing the traditional boundaries between fields such as social sciences, politics, communication, and information technology. Among these, artificial intelligence (AI), as one of the most influential phenomena of the digital age, plays a decisive role in decision-making processes, managing public opinion, and shaping the cultural perceptions and identities of nations. In this landscape, public diplomacy – which involves direct communication with the public opinion of other countries – is more influenced than ever by new technologies, particularly AI-based tools.

For years, Iran's image in many international media outlets, particularly in the West, has been shaped by one-sided and negative narratives. Therefore, a critical examination of the opportunities and threats posed by AI in Iran's public diplomacy is an undeniable necessity. A systematic study of AI's impact on public diplomacy, with a focus on Iran, can yield a deeper understanding of the complexities inherent in the relationship between technology, culture, and politics. Such research should investigate both the technological tools and methods, and analyze their opportunities and challenges in representing Iran's image globally. The findings of such research could contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between new technologies and foreign policy, pave the way for formulating more effective public diplomacy strategies.

Methodology

This study applies qualitative method. This method allows us to identify complexities and hidden relationships among concepts, providing rich and deep interpretations of social realities which are involved between AI, public diplomacy and Iran's image. By using qualitative method, given its flexibility this article endeavors to respond to the research questions and validation through careful review and verification of data of the Iran's image on public diplomacy.

Findings

Artificial intelligence can play a key role in shaping Iran's image in the international arena, especially in the area of public diplomacy, which is directly related to global opinion. This technology is able to design and personalize diplomatic messages in a way that is understandable, attractive, and influential for different audiences. By utilizing AI tools,

Iran can analyze extensive data related to the interests, beliefs, concerns, and behavioral patterns of different audiences and produce content tailored to the characteristics of each group.

In recent years, the foreign policy apparatus of the Islamic Republic of Iran has undergone a fundamental shift in its approach to public diplomacy, placing significant emphasis on the intelligent utilization of soft power and constructive engagement with global public opinion. The Iranian authorities utilizing of digital media and social networks, particularly Twitter, to enhance public diplomacy and establish direct communication with a global audience has shown its effectiveness. However, some analyses indicate that, despite these efforts, a formulated and coherent program in the form of public diplomacy has not yet been fully developed, and there remains a need for more comprehensive strategies in this domain. The strengthening of public diplomacy has evolved beyond a mere tool for reducing international tensions into a strategic factor for enhancing global legitimacy, expanding bilateral and multilateral relations, and reinforcing the foundations of the soft power of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The intelligent use of emerging communication technologies in this process will elevate Iran's position from a passive state to one of active role-playing within the structure of the international system. Achieving effective public diplomacy is contingent upon three fundamental pillars: first, continuous investment and long-term planning; second, the training of specialized and efficient human resources; and third, establishing structural coordination among cultural, academic, and media institutions. To redefine Iran's image in global public opinion, it is imperative to leverage the country's competitive advantages, including its historical and civilizational richness, scientific and technological advancements, and the capabilities of its elite community in generating novel and compelling narratives. This comprehensive approach can solidify Iran's international standing within a realistic and balanced framework.

Conclusion

As a transformative technology, artificial intelligence holds significant potential for redefining and enhancing Iran's national image. This capacity allows policymakers and diplomats to pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses of the country's national image both domestically and internationally, and to design appropriate measures accordingly. The generation of targeted content constitutes a second domain in which AI plays a prominent role. Utilizing advanced algorithms, it is possible to design messages and content that are aligned with the culture, values, and

attitudes of target audiences. This serves to increase the impact of communications, reduce misunderstandings, and consequently, present Iran's national image more positively on the global stage. The management of social interactions is another crucial function of AI. This capability facilitates the proactive and dynamic management of Iran's national image and allows for the more optimized utilization of public diplomacy opportunities. Furthermore, AI enables coordination among various governmental and non-governmental institutions. Through data integration and comprehensive analysis, decision-making in the realms of diplomacy and cultural policies becomes more precise and effective. This institutional coordination strengthens the national image not merely reactively, but in a planned and strategic manner. Moreover, the use of AI for predicting global trends and analyzing competitors provides an effective tool for smart diplomacy. These predictions help Iran improve its position in the international arena and, through a sound understanding of global developments, implement its cultural and media initiatives more purposefully.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in US Foreign and Security Policy 2021 to 2025

Mohammad Reza Dehshiri¹
Mostafa Yousefi²

Abstract

This study aims to examine and analyze the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the foreign policy and national security of the United States during the period 2021–2025. The main research question is: *What role has AI played in shaping U.S. foreign policy and national security, and how can this role be explained within the framework of great power competition, particularly with China and Russia?* The theoretical framework of the study is based on neorealism in international relations, which emphasizes the anarchic structure of the international system, the competition for survival, and the pursuit of relative power by states. The research adopts a qualitative, descriptive–analytical approach, employing qualitative content analysis and trend analysis. Data were collected through the review of official U.S. government documents, think tank reports, and scholarly sources. Findings indicate that AI has become an integral part of U.S. foreign policy, utilized in areas such as cybersecurity, international narrative-building, digital diplomacy, and intelligent military operations. By enhancing data processing and analysis capabilities, AI has improved the accuracy and speed of strategic decision-making and enabled the creation of targeted diplomatic messages tailored to the cultural and social contexts of different audiences. Furthermore, the establishment of specialized institutions and the collaboration among government agencies, technology companies, and think tanks have facilitated the systematic integration of AI into U.S. foreign policy-making processes. Overall, the results suggest that AI is not merely a technological tool, but a core pillar of U.S. national power and a decisive factor in shaping the country's international behavior in the current decade.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, U.S. Foreign Policy, Neorealism, National Security, Great Power Competition.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Over the last decade, artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved from a specialized tool into a strategic technology at the heart of international politics. Advances in machine learning, data analytics and autonomy have not only spurred economic transformation but have also begun to shape military planning, public diplomacy and global governance. The United States, long regarded as a technological leader, has sought to maintain its strategic advantage through ambitious investments in “trusted artificial intelligence” and related foundational technologies. The 2022 National Security Strategy underscores AI alongside quantum systems and microelectronics as essential to U.S. national security and pledges to work with allies to harness these technologies and develop export controls that protect democratic values. Against this backdrop, the Persian-language article analysed here investigates how AI influenced U.S. foreign policy between 2021 and 2025, arguing that AI is no longer a mere technological tool but a structural factor that reshapes power and diplomacy.

The article poses two central questions: first, how has AI altered the distribution of power and policy orientation within the United States as a hegemonic actor, and second, how has Washington integrated AI across its foreign-policy instruments? By drawing on international-relations theories, examining official policy documents and analysing case studies in cybersecurity, diplomacy and Sino-American competition, the authors show that AI is embedded in institutions and strategies, increasing decision-making speed, shaping narrative management and intensifying great-power rivalry. This summary synthesises the article’s major findings and situates them within broader scholarly debates.

Literature Review

The authors ground their research in classical and contemporary international-relations theories. Traditional neorealism (structural realism) holds that states act rationally within an anarchic system to maximise power and security. Power is usually measured in military and economic terms, and technological innovation is treated as an instrument for maintaining the balance of power. The article points out that rapid AI development challenges classical assumptions by creating new dimensions of power and blurring the line between economic, military and informational domains. Scholars such as Kenneth Waltz treat technology as an exogenous variable; however, neo-realists now

acknowledge that “knowledge power” and digital infrastructure underpin state capability.

The literature review notes that liberal and constructivist theories emphasise international institutions, norms and interdependence. For liberal institutionalists, the rise of AI accentuates the need for global governance and cooperation; yet normative pluralism complicates the development of shared standards. Constructivists highlight how AI shapes identities and discourse, echoing recent scholarship on digital diplomacy and algorithmic governance. The authors also review critical perspectives, including techno-optimists who see AI as enhancing efficiency, and sceptics who warn of bias, surveillance and control. Studies on ethical AI highlight fairness, accountability and transparency concerns.

At the empirical level, the literature covers a growing body of U.S. policy documents. The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) in 2021 called for a “whole-of-nation” approach to AI readiness. The 2022 National Security Strategy and subsequent National Defense Strategy stress the need for “trusted AI” and close cooperation with allies. Meanwhile, scholars examine the formation of new institutions such as the Department of Defense’s Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO) and the State Department’s Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP). These works show that the United States is institutionalizing AI governance to maintain technological primacy and shape global norms.

Methodology

The article adopts a descriptive-analytical methodology. It first reviews primary sources—policy documents, official reports, speeches and press releases—to trace how the U.S. government conceptualizes AI in foreign policy. Key documents include the NSCAI final report, the 2022 National Security Strategy, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act and strategy papers from the Departments of Defense and State. Content analysis is used to identify recurring themes such as “responsible AI,” “strategic competition” and “integrated deterrence.” The authors then map the institutional landscape, examining the creation and mandates of offices like the Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology (S/TECH). According to the Bureau for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, S/TECH coordinates technology policy across the State Department and engages with allies to set international norms.

In the second phase, the researchers conduct case-studies on AI’s application in three domains: cybersecurity, public diplomacy and great-power competition. Each case draws on reports, official statements,

expert interviews and secondary literature. The cybersecurity section analyses AI-driven defensive and offensive capabilities, including programs like the DARPA AI Cyber Challenge (AIxCC), which tasks teams with building AI systems to secure critical software and protect infrastructure. The public diplomacy case examines AI tools for sentiment analysis, media monitoring and narrative management, drawing on accounts from diplomats and data officers; for instance, the State Department uses AI to summarise diplomatic cables and monitor multilingual media, aiming to “navigate a complex geopolitical landscape” while upholding ethical standards. The final case explores U.S.-China AI competition and the role of export controls on semiconductors.

Discussion

The article documents a proliferation of AI-focused institutions and strategies during 2021-2025. In 2021, the U.S. government established the Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO) by merging several Department of Defense (DoD) initiatives; its mission is to accelerate data-driven decision-making and ensure ethical AI adoption. The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence recommended elevating AI to a national priority, spurring Congress to allocate billions of dollars for research and talent development.

At the State Department, Secretary of State Antony Blinken launched the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP) and later created the Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology (S/TECH). The CDP integrates cyberspace, digital freedom and digital policy, whereas S/TECH focuses on emerging technologies like AI, quantum computing and biotechnology. According to an analysis of S/TECH’s creation, the office coordinates AI policy and engages with international partners to set norms and standards. The article argues that these institutions signal an effort to embed AI governance into diplomatic practice.

Strategic documents also illustrate a shift toward AI-centric policymaking. The 2022 National Security Strategy pledges to invest in “trusted artificial intelligence” alongside quantum, biotechnology and advanced computing. It emphasises working with allies to harness foundational technologies, develop export controls and protect human rights. The DoD’s National Defense Strategy of the same year outlines “integrated deterrence,” where AI-enabled systems enhance command-and-control and enable joint operations across domains. The National AI Research and Development Strategic Plan (2023 update) calls for robust funding and public-private partnerships. Together, these documents show that AI is viewed as an essential element of national power.

AI in Public Diplomacy and Narrative Management: The article's second major theme is the use of AI in diplomacy and narrative shaping. Digital diplomacy has long used social media and data analytics, but AI now enables real-time sentiment analysis, predictive modelling and automated translation. The authors explain that the State Department and U.S. Agency for Global Media deploy AI tools to monitor international news outlets, social media platforms and internet trends. They use machine-learning algorithms to summarize diplomatic cables and glean insights from large volumes of open-source information, improving diplomats' situational awareness. For example, AI helps detect disinformation campaigns and tailor counter-narratives that align with U.S. values. The article notes that officials emphasize ethical guidelines to prevent biases and protect privacy; this aligns with statements from the Chief Data and AI Officer of the State Department, who advocates for ethical AI that respects human rights and ensures explainability.

Public diplomacy programs also use AI for targeted messaging. Natural language processing analyses local languages and cultural contexts, allowing diplomats to craft culturally sensitive narratives. The article highlights projects like the AI Diplomacy Tracker and Project Early Insight (hypothetical names in the Persian text) that leverage data to anticipate crises and gauge public reaction. While these tools improve efficiency, they raise concerns about manipulation and algorithmic bias. The authors call for stronger oversight and transparency, echoing international debates on ethical AI governance.

AI and Cybersecurity: In the realm of cybersecurity, the article emphasizes that AI both enables new defensive capabilities and introduces new vulnerabilities. Machine-learning algorithms can detect anomalies in network traffic, identify malware signatures and automate patch management. The DoD's Project Maven and Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2) use AI to fuse sensor data and accelerate decision cycles. On the offensive side, AI can support penetration testing and exploit development, raising fears of autonomous cyber weapons. To address these challenges, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) launched the AI Cyber Challenge (AICC), inviting teams to design AI systems capable of securing critical software and defending infrastructure. The competition underscores the U.S. belief that AI will be indispensable in protecting "the most critical code that underpins daily life and national security".

The article also notes that AI is integral to cyber operations and deterrence strategies. AI can assist in attributing cyber-attacks, enhancing both response speed and accuracy. However, adversaries can also

leverage AI to evade detection and launch sophisticated attacks. The authors warn that the AI cyber arms race could destabilise deterrence, requiring new norms and confidence-building measures.

Diplomacy, Alliances and Norm-Setting: Beyond tools and technology, AI is shaping diplomatic alliances and norm-setting. The United States views AI as a key element in maintaining alliance cohesion and countering authoritarian models. Initiatives like the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and the Quad Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group aim to promote shared standards for “responsible AI.” The article highlights how Washington engages allies through the AUKUS Pillar II on advanced technologies, emphasising interoperable AI systems and secure supply chains. At the same time, U.S. diplomats work in international forums to promote human-centric AI principles and fend off authoritarian digital governance models.

The authors discuss normative tensions between the U.S. and China. While the U.S. advocates for open, ethical and democratic AI governance, China promotes state-centric control and data sovereignty. These divergent visions lead to contests over standards in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other bodies. The article suggests that AI is becoming a site of ideological competition, requiring careful diplomacy to avoid fragmentation.

U.S.–China Competition and Export Controls: The most geopolitically charged section of the article examines U.S.-China AI competition. The authors argue that AI is integral to the broader strategic rivalry, with both countries seeking dominance in semiconductor manufacturing, cloud infrastructure and AI research. U.S. policymakers worry that China’s authoritarian use of AI—for surveillance, social credit scoring and military modernisation—could upend the liberal order. In response, the U.S. has adopted measures to restrict China’s access to cutting-edge chips and software. An October 2022 export-control package curtailed the sale of advanced GPUs and semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, aiming to slow Chinese AI development. The article notes that these controls also covered U.S. persons’ ability to support Chinese chip facilities, representing an unprecedented extraterritorial reach.

Furthermore, the CHIPS and Science Act (2022) provides billions in subsidies for domestic semiconductor production, and the National Defense Authorization Act directs funds to AI research. The article argues that such measures seek not only to secure supply chains but also to preserve U.S. hegemonic status. However, there are risks: aggressive export controls may push China to accelerate indigenous innovation and encourage third countries to develop alternative supply chains. The

authors therefore call for a balanced strategy that safeguards national security while fostering responsible innovation.

Ethical and Social Implications: Throughout the article, the authors underscore the ethical challenges posed by AI in foreign policy. AI systems can perpetuate bias, erode privacy and exacerbate surveillance, raising questions about accountability. Diplomatic use of AI for sentiment analysis risks manipulating public opinion and undermining trust. Militarized AI could lower the threshold for conflict, and autonomous decision-making raises legal and moral dilemmas. The authors advocate for international agreements on responsible AI use, drawing on human-rights frameworks and UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021). They argue that U.S. leadership is crucial for establishing norms that safeguard democratic values while enabling innovation.

Conclusion

The article presents a nuanced examination of how AI has influenced U.S. foreign policy from 2021 to 2025. It finds that AI is no longer a peripheral technology; rather, it has become a foundational element of national power. The United States has institutionalized AI governance through new offices and commissions, and strategic documents emphasize "trusted AI" and allied cooperation. AI tools have been integrated into public diplomacy, allowing diplomats to analyze media, detect disinformation and manage narratives, while initiatives like DARPA's AI Cyber Challenge illustrate AI's role in cybersecurity. At the same time, AI shapes alliance structures and normative debates, with Washington so-called promoting democratic standards and confronting authoritarian models. Export controls on semiconductors signal a willingness to weaponize supply chains in the U.S.-China competition.

The article concludes that AI has accelerated decision-making and expanded the repertoire of U.S. foreign-policy instruments, but it also amplifies risks such as algorithmic bias, escalation and technological inequality. As AI permeates diplomacy, security and development, the authors urge policymakers to embed ethical principles, invest in talent and cooperate with allies to build a human-centric AI ecosystem. Future research should explore the long-term impacts of AI on global governance, especially in the Global South, and assess whether U.S. strategies succeed in maintaining technological leadership without provoking fragmentation. This synthesis underscores that AI is not just a tool; it is a transformative force that will continue to shape U.S. foreign policy and the broader international order.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the United States Public Diplomacy

Majid Ostovar¹

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) has a significant impact on the United States' foreign policy and decision-making within the realm of public diplomacy. This advanced technology enables predictive analyses and real-time threat detection, ranging from anticipating military maneuvers to assessing political instabilities. The fundamental research question of this study is: What role does AI play in U.S. foreign policy and public diplomacy? The present study employs a qualitative methodology, drawing upon library and online resources and utilizing an analytical–descriptive approach to examine the position of AI in U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy. The study tests the hypothesis that AI holds a critical role in U.S. foreign policy by forecasting policies, creating new opportunities in international interactions, and enhancing public diplomacy. The findings indicate that the strategic utilization of AI capabilities in foreign policy and public diplomacy can have a significant impact on the global order and pave the way for a new era in state-to-state relations. Accordingly, the opportunities and challenges of AI in U.S. foreign policy require careful discussion and analysis.

Keywords: United States, Artificial Intelligence, Foreign Policy, Public Diplomacy, International Engagements

Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence, with its capacity for big data analysis and event forecasting, is increasingly becoming a significant game-changer in international relations. As a result, some leading countries in AI have begun to employ this emerging technology extensively to support analysis and decision-making in the realm of foreign policy. The U.S. Department

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of State also employs artificial intelligence in the formulation of its international agreements. The United States is recognized as a leading country in this domain. In this context, AI plays a key role in the technological competition between the United States and China, a rivalry often referred to as the “AI race.” The fundamental research question of this study is: What role does AI play in U.S. foreign policy specially it’s public diplomacy? The objective of this research is to examine the role of artificial intelligence in the United States’ foreign policy and public diplomacy. Accordingly, the study tests the hypothesis that AI holds a critical position in U.S. foreign policy by forecasting policies, creating new opportunities in international interactions, and enhancing public diplomacy. This study aims to examine the role, functions, and implications of artificial intelligence in U.S. foreign policy from multiple perspectives—a topic that could also serve as a roadmap for Iranian policymakers. In a world where traditional boundaries have lost much of their significance, emerging technologies and big data can assist foreign policy decision-makers in predicting future developments with unprecedented accuracy and transparency, enabling them to make informed decisions based on precise information. Accordingly, revising and reorganizing traditional processes has become an essential necessity.

2. Literature Review

In the field of artificial intelligence and its role in the international arena, numerous studies have been conducted. This section highlights several key works, including those published in both Persian and English, which examine the functions, applications, and implications of AI in global diplomacy and foreign policy. In English-language studies, a wider range of works exist regarding the role of artificial intelligence in international relations, some of which are directly relevant to this research. Parmee Olson, in her book *AI Supremacy, Chat GPT, and the Competition That Will Change the World* (2024), examines the international competition for AI dominance, particularly focusing on the role of companies such as Open AI, the developer of Chat GPT, and its impact on global politics and the future interactions of major powers. James Johnson, in his article *Artificial Intelligence and Arms Control* (2021), discusses the potential threats arising from the military use of AI and proposes strategies for drafting international agreements to regulate emerging technologies. Kai-Fu Lee, in his book *AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order* (2018), examines the growing competition between the United States and China in AI development. Lee critically analyzes the impact of AI technologies on the global economy, foreign policies, and

the international balance of power. Gregory C. Allen and Taniel Chan, in their report *Artificial Intelligence and National Security* (2017), explore AI's role in transforming military and security decision-making in the United States and its implications for U.S. foreign policy toward competitors such as China and Russia. A review of these studies indicates that the present research, in contrast to previous works, seeks to examine how U.S. foreign policy orientations are evolving under the influence of artificial intelligence technologies.

3. Discussion

Public diplomacy is a key mechanism through which countries build mutual trust and constructive relationships, playing a critical role in creating a secure global environment. Public diplomacy is inherently global, encompassing a multitude of actors and networks, and the emergence of artificial intelligence marks the beginning of a transformative era in diplomacy that fundamentally alters how states interact, negotiate, and communicate on the world stage. In an increasingly interconnected world, where the complexity of international relations demands more sophisticated approaches, AI emerges as a central tool for enhancing data analysis and predictive modeling. The integration of artificial intelligence into international relations encourages the development of a "new technology diplomacy," wherein technological advancements are actively leveraged. This proactive approach not only enhances traditional diplomatic practices but also opens pathways for more transparent and equitable interactions on the global stage.

The United States, in shifting its foreign policy focus from trade to AI-driven diplomacy, seeks to maintain its dominance in the twenty-first-century global order. With China's increasing AI capabilities and the diminishing advantages of free trade, U.S. leadership in this domain has become a key tool for advancing its international interests. This new approach presents unique challenges and opportunities in global relations. Once an unrivaled economic giant, the United States now faces new diplomatic challenges on the world stage. China's economic competition and the declining attractiveness of the U.S. market have compelled the country to adapt to these emerging dynamics. AI has emerged as the centerpiece of U.S. diplomatic strategy, with the country leading in both research and development as well as commercialization. Venture investments in AI startups in the United States surpass those in other parts of the world. The United States aims to redefine global diplomacy, emphasizing AI-driven productivity as a primary driver of economic

growth and as a means to strengthen its international standing in the twenty-first century.

Accordingly, multinational initiatives in the field of artificial intelligence have facilitated communication among government officials and addressed governance needs. These initiatives enhance the capabilities of the parties involved and create a shared environment for addressing complex issues such as accountability and transparency in AI diplomacy. By combining international governance frameworks with multilateral cooperation, challenges can be better managed, and AI technologies can be utilized in a transparent and responsible manner. The United States is charting its path in AI diplomacy and, through strategic use of this technology, has the potential to reshape the global order and usher in a new era of international collaboration. The success of these efforts depends on policymakers' ability to leverage AI as a tool for global diplomacy.

4. Conclusion

This study focused on examining the role of artificial intelligence in U.S. public diplomacy aspect of U.S. foreign policy. The findings indicate that AI's ability to process and analyze vast amounts of information, assists American diplomats in better understanding public concerns and interests, while influencing public opinion in alignment with their national interests. In the realm of public diplomacy, the US government uses artificial intelligence both as a tool and as a topic of conversation. A major challenge lies in transforming organizational culture and training diplomats to use artificial intelligence effectively and responsibly. This training encompasses not only how to operate the tools but also critical thinking regarding the limitations and potential biases of AI.

Artificial Intelligence, Meta-Theory of International Relations, and Synergistic Diplomacy

Mohammad- Ali Rafiei¹

Abstract

The emergence of artificial intelligence has posed a fundamental challenge to the conceptual, normative, and theoretical foundations of International Relations. This phenomenon has not only transformed policy-making tools but also redefined key concepts such as agency, social reality, knowledge, and international order. This study, with a focus on metatheory, examines the relationship between artificial intelligence and the ontological, epistemological, and methodological dimensions of International Relations theory. The main research question addresses the impact of artificial intelligence on the threefold metatheoretical dimensions (ontology, epistemology, and methodology) of International Relations. The study employs the English School, as a middle-ground and pluralist theory, to explain these transformations. By emphasizing new concepts such as hybrid entities and actors, cybernetic feedback loops at the ontological level, symbiotic epistemology, and integrated methodology, the effects of artificial intelligence on International Relations theory are analyzed. The role of diplomacy as a central institution of international order is examined in light of technological transformations, and the concept of "synergistic diplomacy"—based on deep human-machine cooperation and interaction—is introduced. The article concludes by emphasizing the necessity of meta-theoretical rethinking within existing theories and the gradual evolution of the English School to address the emerging digital order.

The research method of this article is descriptive-analytical, and data has been collected through document and library study. Using conceptual analysis, the study seeks to provide a theoretical framework for understanding the meta-theoretical transformations brought about by artificial intelligence.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, English School, Metatheory, International Relations, Diplomacy

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

The emergence of artificial intelligence has posed a fundamental challenge to the conceptual, normative, and theoretical foundations of International Relations. This phenomenon has not only transformed policy-making tools but also redefined key concepts such as agency, social reality, knowledge, and international order. This study addresses a metatheoretical question: how does the rapid emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) reconfigure the ontological, epistemological, and methodological foundations of International Relations (IR) theory — and what implications follow for the practice of diplomacy? The paper argues that AI is not merely an instrumental innovation but a structural driver that reshapes the very categories through which scholars and practitioners understand actors, agency, knowledge production, and international order. Building on the English School as a mediating theoretical lens, the research articulates a conceptually rich and normatively sensitive framework, which seeks to integrate human-machine collaboration into IR metatheory and diplomatic practice.

Methodology

This article employs a descriptive-analytic method, with data collected through library sources, academic journals, and reliable online platforms. It conducts a systematic conceptual mapping of extant literature at the intersection of AI and IR, synthesizes normative debates and empirical case evidence, and employs conceptual analysis to propose an integrative framework.

Literature Review

The literature review organizes prior work into three broad clusters. The first cluster explores technological and structural effects of AI on state capacity and international order: studies here document how differential access to AI shapes relative capabilities and can entrench normative asymmetries. The second cluster interrogates AI's influence on agency and ethics — for example debates over “artificial moral agents” and responsibility in automated decision-making. The third cluster examines methodological ramifications, showing how computational techniques (network analysis, large-scale discourse mining, simulation) expand empirical reach but demand new interpretive frameworks and normative guardrails. Across these clusters the review finds two persistent shortcomings: most works remain either narrowly technical (overlooking

normative and historical dimensions) or narrowly normative/philosophical (detached from empirical modalities and institutional practice). The paper thus identifies a gap for a middle-range, metatheoretical account that bridges norms, institutions, and computational affordances — a role the English School, suitably adapted, is well positioned to play.

Discussion

Drawing on the English School, the paper develops three interlocking conceptual moves. First, it re-conceptualizes entities and agents: AI systems and algorithmically augmented institutions are treated as hybrid *entities and agents* that co-constitute decisions in partnership with human agents. This reconceptualization preserves the normative centrality of states and human responsibility while recognizing emergent agency within socio-technical assemblages. Second, it foregrounds *cybernetic feedback loops* at the ontological level — that is, the mutual shaping of informational environments and social behavior where algorithms both interpret and alter the social facts they observe. Third, it proposes a *symbiotic epistemology*: knowledge about world politics increasingly arises from iterative human-machine cycles (data generation, model inference, human interpretation), requiring *integrated methodology* that combines computational scale with hermeneutic contextualization. These moves are synthesized into the paper's central policy concept — *synergistic diplomacy* — defined as a mode of diplomatic practice that intentionally match human judgement and machine assistance under rules of transparency, accountability, and cultural sensitivity.

The discussion develops the normative and practical implications of these conceptual innovations in three spheres. In terms of institutional design, synergistic diplomacy demands new governance arrangements: algorithmic transparency standards, intergovernmental agreements on data sharing, and institutional mechanisms for adjudicating disputes about model outputs. Ethically, the paper stresses that algorithmic deployment in diplomacy must incorporate obligations of interpretability and contestability so that machine-informed choices remain subject to democratic and diplomatic oversight. Methodologically, the study recommends a mixed toolkit: computational methods (network and text analytics, scenario simulation) to map large-scale patterns, combined with interpretive, historical, and normative methods to assess meaning, cultural context, and legitimacy. Together these elements enable diplomats to harness AI's predictive and analytic strengths while avoiding technocratic overreach or epistemic overconfidence.

Empirically, the paper illustrates its claims with purposive examples drawn from recent applications and debates. It examines how predictive analytics could assist crisis diplomacy by simulating negotiation trajectories and identifying early warning signals, while emphasizing the dangers of opaque recommendation systems that might inadvertently escalate rather than mitigate conflict. It analyzes the political economy of AI governance — showing how uneven access to compute and data can translate into structural advantages for technologically advanced states and firms, thereby complicating norms of fairness in international order. It also presents the case of digital diplomacy in the public sphere, where algorithmic amplification of narratives can both aid persuasive diplomacy and risk deepening misperceptions if left unmanaged. These empirical examples serve to demonstrate both the promise and the hazards of integrating AI into diplomatic practice and to ground the normative prescriptions in observable dynamics.

Conclusion

The paper's findings can be summarized as six principal claims. First, AI requires a meta-theoretical update: ontology, epistemology, and methodology in IR cannot remain unchanged when algorithmic systems materially shape both data environments and decision processes. Second, hybrid agency does not displace human responsibility; rather it reframes it — institutions must architect accountability models that attach to socio-technical hybrids. Third, transparency and interpretability are preconditions for legitimate use of AI in diplomacy; without them, automated systems will erode trust between states and publics. Fourth, institutionalization — rather than ad hoc adoption — is decisive: formal rules, data governance regimes, and multilateral frameworks determine whether AI strengthens or destabilizes international cooperation. Fifth, the English School's conceptual framework (society, order, rules) offers a valuable analytical framework to integrate ethical, historical, and institutional perspectives into technical debates. Sixth, operationalizing these insights requires methodological pluralism: Large-N computational studies must be complemented by qualitative tracing and deliberative mechanisms. These claims collectively suggest a research and policy program that is simultaneously conceptually rich and policy-relevant.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Science Diplomacy: Prioritizing Challenges and Opportunities from Experts' Perspectives

Javad Masoumi¹

Abstract

The primary purpose of this research is to analyze the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in strengthening international scientific and technological collaborations. This study also seeks to identify key capabilities, examine the challenges ahead, and propose the necessary policy frameworks for leveraging this technology in the realm of science diplomacy. This applied research was conducted using a descriptive-analytical approach. Data were collected via a validated, structured questionnaire from a sample of 52 experts in the fields of artificial intelligence and science diplomacy. The data were analyzed using one-sample t-tests and the Friedman test.

The results indicate that the respondents' perspectives across the four main areas of the study (foreign policy, security and ethical challenges, economic opportunities, and international collaborations) are significantly positive ($p < 0.001$). "International collaborations" achieved the highest level of agreement with a mean of 4.27. However, the Friedman test revealed a different order of priorities: "the impact of AI on foreign policy" was identified as the most critical factor (mean rank 1.74), while "international collaborations" was ranked as the least important (mean rank 3.06) by the experts.

This research concludes that experts perceive AI as a highly influential factor in science diplomacy. Despite AI's high potential for strengthening mutual collaborations, the primary focus of the experts is on the strategic implications of this technology for foreign policy. These findings underscore the necessity of integrating the strategic dimensions of AI into foreign relations, developing ethical and security frameworks, and investing in the resulting economic opportunities.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Science Diplomacy; Scientific Collaboration; Emerging Technologies; Science Policy

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

The rapid advance of emerging technologies—particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI)—is creating new avenues for international scientific and technological engagement. Science diplomacy, widely recognized as a key instrument for strengthening international cooperation and addressing global challenges, has been profoundly shaped by this technological shift. While prior studies have examined the contribution of digital technologies to scientific relations, a systematic assessment of AI's specific impact on science diplomacy remains a notable research gap. This study addresses that gap by analyzing how AI facilitates and strengthens international scientific collaboration. The core objectives are to identify AI's key capabilities, assess its inherent challenges and opportunities, and propose a policy framework for leveraging AI within science diplomacy. The study asks how AI transforms traditional diplomatic mechanisms and what strategic considerations are essential for its responsible and effective implementation.

Literature Review

The literature on science diplomacy is diverse. In the Iranian context, studies have focused on developing conceptual frameworks (Hajeri et al., 2017), examining science diplomacy as a component of soft power (Kouhkan et al., 2020), and analyzing its role in bilateral relations and national security (Tishehyar et al., 2021). Internationally, research has explored the nexus of AI with digital diplomacy and global governance (Romet et al., 2022), AI as an analytical tool in diplomatic negotiations (Stanzel et al., 2022), and national AI strategies such as Japan's (Takemi et al., 2025).

However, much of this work remains theoretical, descriptive, or macro-level. The unique contribution of this article is its empirical, data-driven approach: it not only identifies the dimensions of AI in science diplomacy but prioritizes them based on expert judgments. Using statistical analysis, the study moves beyond merely affirming AI's potential and reveals a critical paradox: a significant gap between what experts rate as having the highest potential (international collaboration) and what they assign the highest strategic priority (impacts on foreign policy and security).

Methodology

This research employs an applied, quantitative design with a descriptive–analytical approach. Data were collected via a validated, structured

questionnaire administered to a purposive sample of 52 experts in AI and science diplomacy. Participants were selected for demonstrated domain expertise. Demographic analysis indicates a highly experienced and well-educated cohort—predominantly male (84.6%), over 40 years old (71.2%), and holding postgraduate degrees (84.6%) in strategic fields such as political science, international relations, and management.

The questionnaire covered four thematic dimensions: (1) AI's impact on foreign policy; (2) security and ethical challenges; (3) economic and labor-market opportunities; and (4) international collaboration. Data were analyzed using SPSS. A one-sample t-test evaluated whether expert views differed significantly from a neutral midpoint, and the Friedman test ranked the relative importance of the four dimensions.

Discussion and Findings

Results show a statistically significant consensus that AI is a transformative force across all four dimensions. Descriptive statistics indicate that international collaboration received the highest mean agreement (mean = 4.27 on a five-point Likert scale), reflecting strong recognition of AI's potential to enhance data sharing, facilitate communication, and accelerate joint research.

The Friedman test ranked strategic importance as follows:

- Impact on foreign policy (mean rank = 1.74)
- Security and ethical challenges (mean rank = 2.34)
- Economic and labor-market opportunities (mean rank = 2.87)
- International collaboration (mean rank = 3.06)

Thus, while collaborative potential is widely acknowledged, it is prioritized lower than AI's direct strategic implications. Experts' principal concerns center on how AI redefines national power, shapes foreign-policy strategy, and introduces new security threats (e.g., autonomous weapons). From this elite perspective, international cooperation is not an end in itself but a necessary instrument for managing higher-priority strategic and security concerns.

Conclusion

Experts view AI as a deeply consequential driver of the future of science diplomacy. The core finding is a critical divergence between strong consensus on AI's potential to enhance international collaboration and the comparatively lower strategic priority assigned to that collaboration relative to national-security and foreign-policy concerns. The prevailing

emphasis is on harnessing AI for strategic advantage while mitigating its systemic and potentially existential risks.

Policy implications are clear: countries should develop integrated national AI strategies in which scientific collaboration is not treated as ancillary. Instead, international cooperation should be framed as an essential instrument for achieving primary objectives—strengthening national security, managing geopolitical transformations, and establishing global norms for responsible AI governance. In the absence of a deliberate linkage between cooperation and these foundational interests, its considerable potential will be overshadowed by short-term security imperatives and left underexploited.

Artificial Intelligence and Technological Sanctions in the Semantic Structure of US and European Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran

Meisam Mahdian- Jam¹

Abstract

In recent years, emerging strategic technologies, especially artificial intelligence, have gained a fundamental position in international power equations. Meanwhile, Western countries, especially the United States and the European Union, have used technological sanctions to impose restrictions on technological development in the Islamic Republic of Iran. These sanctions are not only economic in nature, but have also affected the identity and discursive structure of Iran. The present study, with a constructivist approach, seeks to answer the main question of how technological sanctions centered on artificial intelligence have shaped the framework of identity and security discourses and the structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the United States and Europe? Technological sanctions in the field of emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence, are not simply tools of economic pressure but also discursive and identity structures that have led to the reproduction of the "technological othering" of Iran in Western discourse; In contrast, Iran has redefined its role in the global order by building a technological identity centered on resistance. The research findings show that technological interactions between Iran and the West are shaped by conflicting meanings, perceptions, and identities rather than by a mere balance of interests. Using reliable domestic and foreign sources, this article analyzes the identity, political, and technological trends in the structure of Iran's relations with Western powers within the framework of constructivism theory.

keywords: emerging strategic technologies, artificial intelligence, technological sanctions, foreign policy, constructivism, political identity

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Extended Abstract

Introduction:

The world today is facing rapid technological developments that have changed economic and social structures and the ways in which power is exercised. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and quantum computing have become strategic factors in the global balance of power. Over the past two decades, Iran has tried to strengthen its position in the field of technology by relying on localization. This process has been met with the imposition of broader sanctions, especially in the field of new technologies, by the United States and limited support from Europe. The text explains that technological sanctions, in addition to their material function, also have an identity and discursive role and shape the course of relations between Iran and the West.

Literature Review:

Domestic research has mostly focused on technological resistance, localization, security threats, and an identity-based view of science and technology. However, a major gap in these studies is the lack of a coherent theoretical connection with constructivism, the absence of analysis of international technological structures, and the neglect of the discursive dimensions of technological sanctions in international relations. In the international arena as well, numerous studies have examined the impact of emerging technologies and technological sanctions on global politics, some of which have analyzed relations and identities using a constructivist approach.

The present study seeks to analyze the fact that technological sanctions, especially in the field of artificial intelligence, are not merely material pressure but also a discursive and identity-based phenomenon in the international order. Therefore, unlike realist or liberal approaches that focus solely on material interests, this study, utilizing a constructivist framework, attempts to examine the link between technology, identity, discourse, and the structure of power in Iran's relations with the West.

Methodology:

This research is qualitative and explanatory-interpretive in nature and is designed based on the constructivist approach in international relations. Its focus is on the semantic and discursive analysis of the policy of technological sanctions against Iran, with a special emphasis on the field of artificial intelligence. In this article, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

has been used to analyze political texts and official statements of the US and European Union governments.

Discussion:

From a constructivist perspective, technology is not just a tool, but a manifestation of a discourse; a discourse that can be reproduced in the form of “technological independence”, “new Islamic civilization”, “non-Western future-oriented order” and “active technological resistance”. In this regard, the interpretation and meaning of technological power at the domestic and foreign levels plays a decisive role in policy-making. The rapid growth of technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and biotechnology has made the power of countries more dependent on their level of technological capability than in the past. Technology now plays a significant role in the political and security position of states and is considered part of the competition between international powers.

The United States and Europe use technological sanctions to maintain technological superiority and control the process of technological independence of other countries. The present study does not consider technological sanctions, especially in the field of artificial intelligence, as only material pressure, but also sees them as an identity and discursive phenomenon. With a structuralist approach, the relationship between technology, identity, discourse, and power structure in the interactions between Iran and the West is analyzed.

Analyzing the structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the United States and Europe in light of emerging strategic technologies, especially artificial intelligence, shows that Iran's encounter with technological sanctions is not simply a technological or economic event, but rather a reflection of the confrontation of discourses, identities, and different perceptions of the global order. For this reason, a structuralist approach, focusing on the role of national identity, discursive structures, and meaning-making in foreign policy, offers a more efficient analytical framework than traditional realist or liberalist approaches. Analyzing the situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to technological sanctions and the position of emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence, with a constructivist approach requires understanding the role of national identity, resistance discourse, indigenous knowledge resources, and social structures affecting technological policy.

Conclusion:

According to the findings of this study, by focusing on indigenous capabilities and developing a national technology ecosystem, the Islamic

Republic of Iran can rebuild its image in the international system while confronting Western technological pressures. This path can be realized through active technological resistance and targeted cooperation with non-Western powers such as China, Russia, India, Brazil, and other BRICS member states. On the other hand, targeted cooperation with non-Western powers should not be seen as a mere tool to circumvent sanctions, but should have a clear, balanced, and sustainable strategic framework. As a result, macro-policymaking in the Islamic Republic of Iran should rely on these two axes, namely active resistance and targeted cooperation, while reducing technological vulnerability and shaping the discourse of independent technology at the regional and international levels.

Artificial Intelligence and Trade Diplomacy; Transforming Supply Chains: Analyzing the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Global Trade and its Role in Shaping Countries Trade Policies

Seyede Paria Najafi¹

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on commercial diplomacy and the restructuring of global supply chains. It seeks to answer the central question of how emerging technologies, particularly AI, are reshaping the trade policy frameworks of states. Within the framework of the field of International Political Economy and drawing upon the theoretical approach of Neofunctionalism (with an emphasis on technological innovation), this article argues that AI is not merely a technological tool but a structural mechanism for global regulation, soft power projection, and geopolitical competition in international trade.

Core concepts such as commercial diplomacy, global supply chains, and technological governance are defined and examined in relation to AI. The paper investigates the influence of AI across four dimensions of commercial diplomacy: small and medium-sized enterprises, multinational corporations, trade-supporting institutions, and state-led trade diplomacy. Supported by comparative studies and empirical evidence, all four hypotheses of the study are confirmed, demonstrating the transformative role of AI in both trade policymaking and diplomatic structures.

In the policy analysis section, the article provides a set of tailored recommendations for Iran, including the development of a national AI-driven trade diplomacy strategy, empowering non-state trade institutions through AI tools, participating in global AI standard-setting processes, promoting multi-level digital diplomacy, and strengthening interdisciplinary foresight research. Ultimately, the article offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing the intersection of technology and diplomacy in the digital age.

Keywords:

Artificial Intelligence - Global Trade - Supply Chains - Commercial Diplomacy - Technological Governance

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Extended Abstract

Introduction:

In the contemporary international system, artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved from a purely technological innovation into a strategic instrument that reshapes diplomacy, global supply chains, and the foundations of economic governance. This article examines how AI has transformed the logic of trade diplomacy and redefined the structure of global value chains, emphasizing its growing role as a source of power and competitiveness among states. The main objective is to analyze the mechanisms through which AI contributes to the reconfiguration of trade policy, diplomatic behavior, and the balance of influence in the global economy.

Literature review:

Existing research on the intersection of technology and economic policy has predominantly focused on managerial or technical dimensions, often neglecting geopolitical and diplomatic implications. By integrating insights from neofunctionalism (Haas, 1964) and international political economy (Gilpin, 2001), this paper constructs a multilayer analytical framework that conceptualizes AI as a mediating variable between technological innovation and trade governance. Within this framework, AI facilitates data-driven decision-making, predictive analysis, and strategic foresight, thereby reshaping state behavior and empowering non-state actors—such as multinational corporations and regulatory institutions—in global trade governance.

Methodology:

The study adopts a qualitative, descriptive-analytical approach combined with comparative case studies of China, the European Union, and the United States. Data are drawn from international institutional reports—including those of the OECD, UNCTAD, and the World Bank—and peer-reviewed academic literature. This method allows for identifying policy patterns, institutional mechanisms, and diplomatic strategies through which AI supports economic growth and enhances trade governance capabilities.

Discussion:

Empirical findings indicate that countries pursue distinct models of “technological diplomacy” shaped by their institutional frameworks and strategic interests. China has adopted a state-driven model, integrating AI into its “Digital Silk Road” initiative to strengthen technological

sovereignty and geopolitical influence. The European Union, emphasizing ethical governance and transparency, seeks to globalize its normative standards through instruments such as the AI Act. The United States, meanwhile, leverages private-sector innovation and market competition to maintain leadership in data-driven industries.

Across these cases, AI has significantly improved productivity, efficiency, and resilience in global supply chains while introducing new actors—technology firms, chambers of commerce, and digital regulators—into the sphere of trade diplomacy. The study demonstrates that AI-driven transformations are redefining the very logic of international cooperation, where technological capability increasingly complements traditional diplomatic tools.

Conclusion:

The research concludes that AI redefines trade diplomacy by bridging the gap between technological power and economic governance. Countries that have institutionalized AI-oriented strategies have strengthened their global competitiveness and resilience. For Iran, this trajectory underlines the need to formulate a National Strategy for AI in Foreign Trade, enhance technological diplomacy capacities within its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and actively participate in the international standard-setting processes of AI governance.

Moreover, empowering non-governmental trade institutions through data analytics and AI-based decision-making systems can expand Iran's participation in regional and global economic networks. By adopting a forward-looking interdisciplinary approach, Iran can position itself as an emerging actor in the evolving digital and technological order of global trade.

