

Book Review: Artificial Intelligence and the New World Order: New Weapons, New Wars and a New Balance of Power

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I. OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK: A NEW ORDER IN TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

Artificial Intelligence and the New World Order: New Weapons, New Wars and a New Balance of Power is a book that explores in depth how Artificial Intelligence (AI) could reshape international relations, power structures, military war, and global security in the wake of the global pandemic, especially the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ Through a clear theoretical framework and an interdisciplinary perspective, the author comprehensively analyzes the profound impact of AI in various fields, including international relations, military technology, technological sovereignty, terrorism, foreign policy, etc. This book not only reveals how AI is changing traditional power games between nations, but also analyzes how AI has become an emerging international security threat and proposes specific strategic responses to these challenges.

The first part of this book outlines the role of AI in the context of globalization, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic. Through a concise

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¹ Fatima Roumate, *Artificial Intelligence and the New World Order: New Weapons, New Wars and a New Balance of Power*, Springer, 2024.

theoretical framework, the author systematically analyzes how AI is driving profound transformations in international politics and economic systems. Technological innovations within the globalization process, especially the rapid development of AI, are reshaping the balance of power between nations and altering the landscape of international security.

The catalytic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated changes in the global order. In particular, the global leadership of the United States is being challenged, and the established centers of power are beginning to loosen. Meanwhile, emerging global powers and regional players are rapidly rising, vying for dominance in international affairs. As the core driver of this transformation, AI has not only facilitated breakthroughs in technology and innovation, but has also altered the ways in which nations compete and cooperate. AI means that power distribution is no longer solely on the basis of traditional military and economic advantages; it increasingly depends on technological innovation and information control.

The widespread adoption of AI has brought about profound changes in the rules of war and international competition. Military conflicts, once primarily about traditional military forces, are now being reshaped by the application of AI, making the form of warfare more diversified and complex. Emerging technologies such as autonomous weapons, drones, and cyber warfare are becoming the new norm of war. At the same time, new “players” such as tech companies, non-state actors, and multinational organizations are entering the core arena of the international competition, challenging the boundaries of traditional state sovereignty. This diversification of participants not only brings technological innovations but also adds uncertainty to the future development of international order.

As AI penetrates various fields, the complexity of international relations becomes increasingly apparent. Competition between nations is no longer simply about military power; it is increasingly focused on control and utilization of technology. This technology-driven international competition is also causing an unprecedented realignment of global power structures. In this technology-dominated competition, the redefinition of global leadership is ongoing, and how nations respond to the challenges of this new order will be the determining factor in shaping the future trajectory of the international order.

II. POWER STRUCTURES AND GLOBAL COMPETITION: THE DUAL ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In the second part of this book, the author explores in depth how AI is reshaping the power structure of international relations today. AI is no longer merely an extension of traditional national power; it has become a core competitive element in global governance that cannot be ignored. For any nation, mastering and excelling in AI technology means gaining a new competitive advantage in the economic, military, and political fields, which in turn reshapes the global balance of power.

For emerging powers, AI is undeniably a strategic resource that can significantly enhance a nation's voice and influence in global competition. China, in particular, with its vast data resources, rich application scenarios, and rapidly advancing technological capabilities, has emerged as an undeniable force in the global AI race. China has not only made remarkable progress in the research and application of AI technology, but is also gradually asserting its leadership in global AI governance and rulemaking. Policy documents such as the "AI Development Plan" and "Digital Economy Strategy" issued by the Chinese government reflect the country's high regard for AI as a core driver of economic and societal development.

Against this backdrop, the author's insights offer profound implications for Chinese policymakers. As AI technology gradually becomes the core of global competition, ensuring technological sovereignty, particularly in the areas of data governance, technical standards, and military applications, will be crucial for China to assert its influence on the international stage. Specifically, China needs to strengthen data privacy protection and data security, build a self-sustaining technological ecosystem, and ensure its advantageous position in the global development of AI.

Further enhancing domestic innovation capabilities in AI technology and strengthening the construction of technology governance frameworks have become key tasks in the Chinese government's strategic planning. By optimizing talent training systems, increasing investments in fundamental research and technology development, and fostering self-controlled AI technologies, China can strengthen its overall innovation capacity and secure a

competitive edge in future international contests. Simultaneously, China should actively participate in and promote international cooperation, advocating for the development of global AI governance rules and standards, and offering Chinese wisdom and solutions for global technological ethics and security.

China's future position in the global AI race requires both a strong domestic technological foundation and international cooperation to promote the shaping of global rules. Such cooperation is not only limited to technology sharing, but also includes the construction of frameworks for international security, ethical standards, and legal regulations. Therefore, how to promote multilateralism and cooperation in global AI governance through diplomacy and policy will be a key strategic task for China in reshaping the international order.

By deeply investing in AI and fostering global cooperation, China can not only solidify its leadership in technology, but also take a more influential seat in global governance. This will be a critical path for China to rise as a global power in the new era of international competition.

III. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MODERN WARFARE: THE CHALLENGES OF NEW WEAPON SYSTEMS

In the third and fourth parts of this book, the author delves into the application of AI in modern warfare, particularly how emerging technologies such as autonomous weapon systems and robotic combat units are transforming the traditional nature of war. These technologies not only enhance efficiency and precision on the battlefield, but also create new war participants and strategic opportunities, fundamentally changing the nature of warfare. As AI develops rapidly, the traditional balance of military power is undergoing profound changes, with emerging forces such as non-state actors, private military companies, and tech firms gradually getting involved in the global military competition and becoming increasingly important military players.

This change poses significant challenges to the global security framework. Advancements in AI technology mean that military power no longer solely relies on traditional state-run armed forces but increasingly depends

on technological advantages and control. New weapons such as drones, autonomous weapons, and intelligent combat units have redefined what military power means. More critically, these technologies enable non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations or private military firms, to acquire unprecedented military capabilities, thereby challenging state sovereignty and global security stability.

For China, the application of AI in the military field is of particular strategic significance. As global military competition intensifies, leveraging AI technology to enhance military capabilities, especially in terms of defense self-reliance and the intelligence of weapon systems, will become a core issue in China's future military development. However, technological advancement not only improves combat power, but also triggers major discussions on the dimension of ethics, security, and international law. How to ensure that the application of AI technology in the military does not deviate from ethical standards and complies with international law is a common challenge for all nations.

As China strengthens its technological innovation in AI, it needs to consider how to safeguard the security and ethics of these emerging technologies. In military applications, AI's decision-making could directly affect life and death, as well as the outcome of conflicts. Therefore, how to prevent AI from making unethical or illegal decisions in critical moments is crucial to avoiding the global security crisis. Additionally, with the widespread use of AI in warfare, the risk of technological misuse increases, particularly in areas like information warfare and psychological operations. How to prevent the malicious use of AI in these non-traditional battlefields is a key issue in global governance.

Thus, while developing AI military technologies, China must establish a strict technology governance framework to ensure independent innovation and military applications are carried out in compliance with international law. More importantly, China should actively participate in shaping global AI ethical standards and building international security mechanisms to contribute to the peaceful and controllable development of AI in the world.

In this process, China should not only strengthen domestic technology regulation and ethical review but also demonstrate responsibility and

commitment in international cooperation. Through multilateral cooperation and technology sharing, China can promote the rational use of global AI technology and help stabilize global military security. Through such global cooperation and self-restraint, China can not only enhance its own military power, but also lead the construction of a new global security order, preventing the unpredictable and catastrophic consequences of the misuse of AI technology.

IV. TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL SECURITY: THE NEW FOCUS OF GLOBAL COMPETITION

In the fifth part of this book, the author explores the close relationship between AI and technological sovereignty. With the widespread application and popularization of AI technology, state control over technological sovereignty has gradually become a core element of national security. In this new global competitive landscape, nations that control advanced AI technologies will hold the upper hand in the global economic and political game, shaping the development of global rules and standards. This trend presents unprecedented challenges and opportunities for global technological powers, especially China.

As the global focus on AI technology continues to rise, nations have intensified their efforts to control this field. In this context, the definition of technological sovereignty is not only limited to research and development capabilities, but also encompasses how nations can control the flow of technology on a global scale. AI is not only about the ability of technological innovation, but also affects global security, economic development, and international strategic positioning. China, as a major global technological power, particularly needs to focus on the application and security of AI technology at all levels of the economy, military and society, especially in core technology fields such as semiconductors and AI.

The author suggests that countries should strengthen the comprehensive management of AI technology, particularly in formulating a detailed and long-term policy framework for technological innovation, technology export, and international cooperation. This is not only about the national technological security and stability of domestic technology, but also about strategic

advantages in international competition. China's "self-control" strategy, especially in the semiconductor industry and AI core technology, has become one of the decisive factors in future competition. China not only needs to promote the development and application of domestic AI technology through national policies, but should also focus on the global market and actively participate in the formulation of international AI technology governance rules, so as to ensure that it occupies a favorable strategic position in the global technological competition.

In this process, China should enhance its technological innovation autonomy by establishing a complete technological research and development system and innovation chain, reducing reliance on external technologies, and improving self-control capabilities. At the same time, China also needs to promote the refinement of the global AI governance mechanism by deepening international cooperation, particularly in the areas of data governance, technology standards, and ethical frameworks, and propose global solutions with Chinese characteristics. Through such global cooperation and co-governance, China can not only secure its position in global technological competition, but also lead the future development of technology and the formation of international rules.

In the sixth part of this book, the focus shifts to rethinking foreign policy in the age of Artificial Intelligence. It delves into the transformative role AI plays in foreign policy, offering insights on three critical aspects. First, it emphasizes the growing importance of AI in shaping international relations. Second, it explores the profound changes brought about by AI in how foreign policy is formulated and executed. Finally, it examines the risks associated with the malicious use of AI in the realm of foreign affairs, such as disinformation campaigns. The part concludes by asserting that rethinking foreign policy in the context of AI is not merely a strategic option, but a necessity. As AI continues to evolve and impact global dynamics, adapting foreign policy to this new reality becomes an obligation rather than a choice.

In the seventh part of this book, the author shifts the focus to the significant role of AI in cyberattacks, disinformation, and psychological warfare, emphasizing how this emerging technology has become an essential tool in modern warfare and information conflicts. In today's information

age, AI's impact extends beyond military applications; it also profoundly influences the shaping of public perception, social opinion, and psychological operations. Information and psychological warfare now relies on the use of technology to manipulate the flow of information, significantly affecting the thoughts and behaviors of individuals and groups. Such manipulation presents a major challenge to global security, especially in the context of fake news and cyberattacks. Therefore, preventing the malicious use of AI that could undermine national security and social stability has become an urgent issue for the international community.

The convergence of these two areas, technological sovereignty and information warfare, underlines the critical importance for China not only to protect its domestic AI technologies but also to actively lead the construction of global governance frameworks to mitigate the risk of AI misuse. By strengthening both technological innovation and international cooperation, China can play a pivotal role in ensuring that AI technology is used safely and ethically, both within its borders and across the global stage. This proactive leadership will further enhance China's strategic influence, contribute to global technological progress, and promote a more secure and balanced international system.

V. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MECHANISMS IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In the eighth part of this book, the author deeply emphasizes that with the rise of AI, global security is facing unprecedented challenges. Traditional international security mechanisms are no longer capable of addressing the emerging risks posed by AI technology, especially in fields such as information security, cyberattacks, and autonomous weapons. AI has not only changed the shape of warfare, but also introduced new ethical and governance issues. As a result, countries around the world urgently need to establish a new international security framework to tackle these unprecedented security challenges through joint efforts in technology regulation, international cooperation, and ethical development.

For China, the author's perspectives hold profound strategic significance.

As a global economic and technological power, China plays a critical role in AI technological innovation and application. The profound impact of AI on the global economic and security order means that China needs to play a more active role in the international security system. China's future development depends not only on domestic AI breakthroughs, but also on leading the construction and rule making of the global AI governance systems. This is not only an important way for China to enhance its international voice and shape the global order, but also a vital path to realize the goal of a global governance community.

China should actively advocate international cooperation and promote the formation of a new global security governance model. The globalized nature of AI technology requires close cooperation among nations to develop multinational regulatory frameworks that ensure the peaceful development and fair application of AI technology on the international stage. This means that China should not only strengthen technological exchange and cooperation with other countries, but also promote multilateralism and openness in global governance to avoid the misuse of AI technology and the formation of technological barriers.

At the same time, the rapid development of AI presents new ethical and legal challenges. How to promote the mutually beneficial global application of AI technology without infringing on privacy and data sovereignty has become an urgent issue for the international community. China can play a leading role in this process by advocating the establishment of global ethical standards and technical norms, advancing the improvement of global technology governance, and ensuring the fair, controllable, and sustainable development of AI on a global scale.

Additionally, China should actively participate in the construction of global AI governance mechanism, pushing the international community to establish preventative measures for the new security risks brought by AI. This includes strengthening cross-border cybersecurity cooperation, improving the international law framework, and fostering global consensus and collaboration in the field of AI. Through these initiatives, China can not only secure a favorable position in global AI technological competition, but also promote a balance between technology and ethics, innovation and security, leading the

global governance process and contributing to the prosperity and stability of the global community.

In the construction of this new global security framework, China should always adhere to the core principle of promoting global peace and cooperation, and promote AI governance not only limited to the technological level, but also focusing on the integration of international politics and human welfare. Through this comprehensive global cooperation, China can not only ensure its leadership in the global AI competition, but also offer solutions that align with common global interests and shape a fairer, more transparent, and sustainable new order in global technology governance.

VI. COMMENTS: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE AI ERA

Artificial Intelligence and the New World Order: New Weapons, New Wars and a New Balance of Power not only profoundly reveals how AI is reshaping global power structures, the nature of warfare, and international competition, but also offers unique insights into how China can respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by this emerging technology. The rapid rise of AI is changing the fundamental dynamics of international relations, and the traditional power game is being driven by technology. In the face of this profound transformation, China, as a global technological power, needs to formulate forward-thinking strategies in technological innovation, international cooperation, and global governance to ensure that it occupies a favorable position in the international competition of the AI era.

With the far-reaching impact of AI technology on the global economy, military, culture, and many other fields, China should not only focus on domestic innovation and development, but also place greater emphasis on technological sovereignty. In this global AI race, ensuring independence in core areas such as data, security, and technology standards will provide China with a solid strategic foundation. By advancing the development of AI ethics and regulations, China can ensure that this technology benefits all of humanity while avoiding uncontrollable risks. The dual demands of technological innovation and ethical responsibility call for a more balanced governance

framework, so that technology not only promotes economic prosperity, but also maintains long-term social stability and peace.

This book provides scholars, policymakers, and decision-makers with comprehensive and profound insights. It is of significant value to researchers and practitioners who are interested in international relations, technology policy, global security, and AI. The theories and case analysis in this book not only reveal how AI influences the international order and inter-state competition, but also offer strategic recommendations for China's future positioning on the global stage. How to stand out in the global technology competition and how to ensure the safe and fair use of technology through international cooperation and co-governance are now common challenges faced by every nation and society.

China's response strategy should not only focus on the technological level, but also strengthen cultural confidence and international responsibility, and push for global cooperation and rulemaking. In this global technological revolution, only through continuous innovation, global cooperation, and shared ethical norms can we ensure that AI contributes positively to global governance and helps build a more harmonious and stable international order. This is not only a profound revelation for China, but also provides new thoughts and pathways for the future of the world.