AI and the Transformation of Global Politics

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Abstract

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has profound impacts on the development and transformation of different aspects in society, one of which is the emergence of AI (artificial intelligence). In the context the global political situation is marked by complex challenges and shifting dynamics, reflecting the interconnected nature of contemporary issues such as geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation and emerging threat, AI has significantly shaped global politics by revolutionizing decision-making, security, and economic competition. It empowers nations with advanced tools for diplomacy, cybersecurity, and predictive analytics, enhancing their strategic influence on the world stage. The emergence of AI technology has ushered in a new age in global security, defenses, political economics to political systems. The paper examines how AI has been incorporated into these fields in different contexts, such as autonomous weapon systems, surveillance, decision - making processes and economic changes and analyze complex interactions between AI and politics and society issues in reshaping global politics and international orders.

1. Introduction

In the context of political polarization and geopolitical rivalry, the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in terms of its strategic emergence in global politics has thrust the transformation of countries' power. Artificial Intelligence, heralded as a transformative tool of the fourth industrial revolution (Schwalb, 2016) is the ability of algorithms encoded in technology to learn from data so that they can perform automated tasks without every step in the process having to be programmed explicitly by a human (WHO, 2021).The foundation of AI is difficult to be identified with the accurate period of time, however, the first appearance of AI can be descended from 1942 when the story called Runaround was published by the writer Isaac Asimov. His fictional definition of "robotics" soon became part of the lexicon since he believed that robotics referred to a kind of artificial human. The official term of AI was scientifically traced back in 1956 when Marvin Minsky and John McCarthy organized the Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence (DSRPAI) at Dartmouth College. This project is considered to be the founding father of AI as a field, with the proposal of developing an area where cognitive science and thinking machines could be developed and investigated in detail. As the world grapples with the innovation of technologies, the definition of AI from now on is clearer than ever with the inheritance and development from both fictional and non-fictional terms of AI and related machines.

The roles of AI in global politics now are evolving, with a myriad of implications and automated forms, AI could be implemented for the demand of global politics in the 21st century. Global Politics refers to politics that is conducted at a global rather than a local, national or regional level. The global dimension of politics has become increasingly significant with the increase of international organizations and also global issues which interconnect as a whole to have borderless or trans planetary approach to politics. Thus, global politics now plays a crucial role in policy formulation, enhancing lethal force decisions and maintaining surveillance controls across all levels – worldwide, regional, national, sub-national.

In the field of international relations, the proliferation of AI has emerged as a foundation stone in many aspects, especially in the relation to international security and agreement monitoring. This shift builds new global dynamics where technological power determines geopolitical standing, including, but not limited

to, alliances, power structures and international orders. As a diplomatic tool of the 21st century, the domination of AI between nations has implications in every international change, ranging from incorporating AI in global frameworks, analyzing datasets to predict future changes, making it a key element of global prowess struggles.

Notwithstanding the benefits, AI development and adoption has also posted significant risks to the political outcomes through the possibility of robustness in AI systems of cybersecurity. The use of Artificial Intelligence in global politics and world transformation raise concerns regarding ethical and legal considerations, including issues of fairness, transparency and accountability. A taxonomy which refers to three main categories of risks of AI in terms of application includes: ethical and legal risks, operational risks, and strategic risks (RAND, 2020). Diplomats and stakeholders of nations will need to adapt to AI innovations alongside utilizing opportunities for negotiations, analysis and operations. Since AI and its impactful transformation has been at the forefront of international frameworks, international regulatory initiatives must take AI technologies into consideration to mitigate unintended consequences and impel strategic practices transcending international borders.

## 2. Main content

2.1. AI in Global Security and Defense

Global security and defense play a pivotal role in maintaining international stability, protecting national interests, and addressing threats that transcend borders. Their functions encompass a wide range of activities and responsibilities. In terms of global security and defense, the emergence of AI has ushered in a new era of global security and military strategies. Since World War II, the application of modern militaries shifted the trend of military strategies from quantity to quality with the introduction of technological advances such as radar technologies, Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) and aerial reconnaissance cameras instead of a large number of firearms. The standing army of involved countries back then believed that a smaller number of high-quality systems and weapons are more likely to lead to victory in conflicts. With the acceleration of AI systems, this could help bring back the importance of quality in the forms of large numbers of robotics and algorithms, which are optimally connected and coordinated together, such as autonomous weapon systems, surveillance, and predictive analytics to operate in several dimensions in coping with potential global conflicts. Some noticeable systems are radar-guided CIWS systems (1970), General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper (2007), Project Maven (2017), S-70 Okhotnik-B (2019). The UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) is one aimed to foster and promote peace, justice and strong institutions which consists of 12 targets involving mitigating violence, mortality rates, and corruption to strengthen the legal documents and laws and build inclusive decision - making processes. Each target is associated with the innovation of AI which contributes to the favor of AI support in UN workstreams to reach comprehensive international positive peace. In which, international stakeholders are not only aware of the happening of wars and possible solutions to terminate it but also understand structures and cultures of violence and explore the attitudes, institutions and natures of a peaceful world. Therefore, AI can be used in appropriate situations rather than arms race and negative geopolitical competitions.

World leaders have recognized AI as a key component of national security. Governments, especially the liberal democratic governments adopt AI with 51% of democracies implementing AI surveillance in guarding countries against both internal and external threats, obtaining political security, preventing conflicts and monitoring borders (Steven Feldstein, 2019). Rather than armed weapons, AI technologies are considered to be force multipliers and enable, which are more akin to image recognition algorithms, radars, command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (C4IRS). These autonomous weapon systems allow AI to be used tactically in defense, as visual perception, speech, and image recognition to act without human supervision and provide a range of operations in different areas. Visual perception and surveillance systems offer strength to the military systems of states through the incorporation of AI networks in utilizing databases and differentiating between types of terrains or analyzing videos captured by drones to make forecasts about dangerous situations. In maritime areas, especially within the sanctuary of anti-access, AI unmanned weapons active sonar patrolling, underwater communications, mine clearance and other non-combat tools (such as counterterrorism and border defense) to monitor illegal activities namely maritime piracy, smuggling and illegal fishing. In counterterrorism, algorithms select large datasets to sift for patterns that can cause possible terrorist attacks while surveillance and image - recognition machines detect suspects in a short period of time. AI-enable sensors have successfully defended

attacks by anticipating threats and reporting suspected signs of conflicts, exemplified by the Russia - Ukraine war, in which autonomous systems are installed for military intelligence gathering networks.

In strategic and decision-making processes in governments, AI has been used as deliberations for policymaking to avoid deficiencies inherent to leaders' decisions during urgent situations. In such fog of war, the US intelligence community is pursuing AI projects, one of which is Project Maven to collect datasets from different sources in order to reduce human factors burden of analysis, increase actionable military intelligence and predict future potential attacks. The proliferation of military and defense technology promotes countries' innovation assimilation, which affects profoundly on the world order, global stability and the decline of wars.

Figure 1. Share of AI in Military Market by regions in 2022 and 2032

2022

2032

- North America
- Asia Pacific
- Europe
- South America
- Middle East & Africa
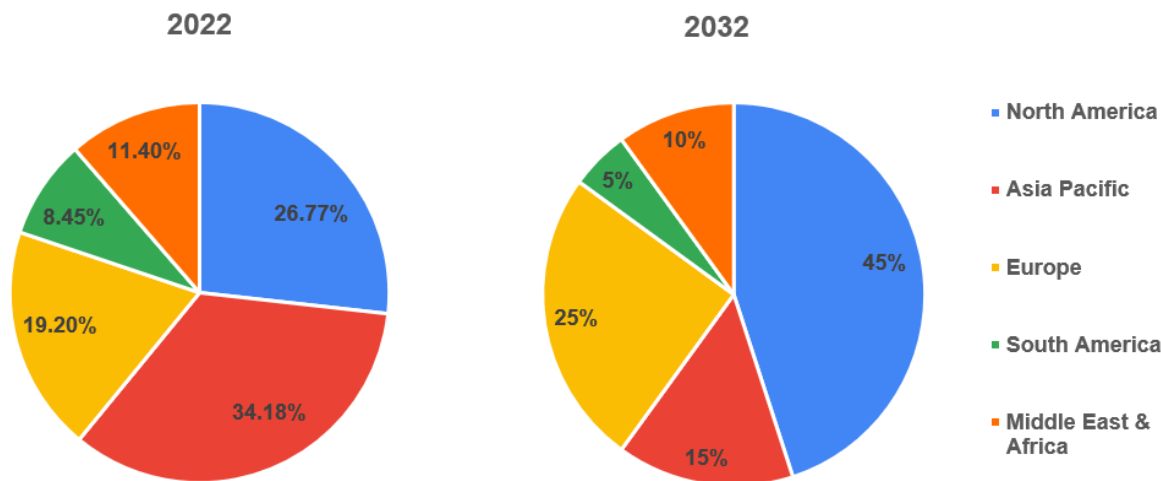
Source: Author self - compiled

In 2022, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported that the US, Russia, China, India, and Saudi Arabia collectively accounted for 63% of defense expenditure. The noticeable international conflicts occurred in recent years, including the Russia-Ukraine war, the Saudi Arabia-Yemen conflict, the Syrian Civil War, US-Iran tensions, the India-China tensions, and Armenia-Azerbaijan border conflict increased demands for incorporating supportive tools such as advanced AI-enabled systems into existing tools to efficiently reach an agreement and create conditions for peace. Asia Pacific and North America, with the appearance of powerful nations such as China and the US, were the top regions to implement AI technologies in the military market, which resulted in 34.18% and 26.77% of global AI implications in military and defense. One of those key ongoing initiatives was Project Maven, ISTAR (The US), AVIC WZ-8 (China), Defense AI Council (India), etc. This market was increasingly competitive with countries leveraging cutting-edge technologies, followed by the domination of Asia Pacific and North America were European countries (which are liberal democracies with the exception of Poland and Hungary) with 19.2%. Key contributors and leading powers in internalizing AI use in the military market employ diverse implications of AI for the development and security of their countries, including research projects, strategic mergers and acquisitions, as well as new technological initiatives. From 2022 to 2032, within 10 years, it is expected to witness the escalation of North America in the implementation of AI since the U.S. Cyber Fleet Command Commander Michael Gilday stated that the Navy must quickly improve an ability to proactively detect new and unknown malware to act quickly using advanced analytics enabled by AI and machine learning (James Johnson, 2019). This may provide the US (the main power of North America) with a tactical advantage in identifying potential hostile activities and planning development strategies. Europe (with Russia's tremendous efforts to finish the ongoing war's missions) is continuing to develop the use of AI in different aspects, with the special attention to military contexts as the EU now needs to tackle the risk posed by AI and find a broad range of collaboration to promote its values in AI applications. In contrast, the Asia Pacific may have certain difficulty in deploying AI to serve for security and defense purposes since the region's power in the AI field mostly concentrates on the growth of China while developing countries are spending their national expenditures and efforts in industrial development, navigating current challenges and solving domestic problems.

2.2. AI in Shaping Political Economics Power

The acceleration of AI capabilities will enable automation of some jobs and activities that have long been required to be human-driven. This trend tends to change the shape of labor markets and open up such transformative opportunities for human and the global economy prospects. The inheritance of past technological advancements allows AI to ameliorate the productivity levels. In the US, for centuries, the economic structure has been changed to adapt with the growth of new technological improvements; many jobs that used to exist are eliminated today, some no one could have imagined about their appearance then have taken their place in this sector. In 1870, nearly 50% of US employers worked in agriculture, producing and supplying food for the nation (Patricia A. Daly, 1981). In the 21th century, with the help of technology such as McCormick tractors, the US agriculture field employs only 10.4% of workers and the provision of food still exceeds the domestic demand (The U.S Department of Agriculture, 2023). The way which AI and new technologies increase the productivity of tasks is by minimizing the total labor hours needed to complete a unit of product or provide services. The labor productivity increases parallel to the increase in average wages, giving workers chances to cut off their working hours and helping them to be better afforded with quality goods and services.

Figure 2. Average Annual Working Hours per Worker in G7 Countries, 1960-2023
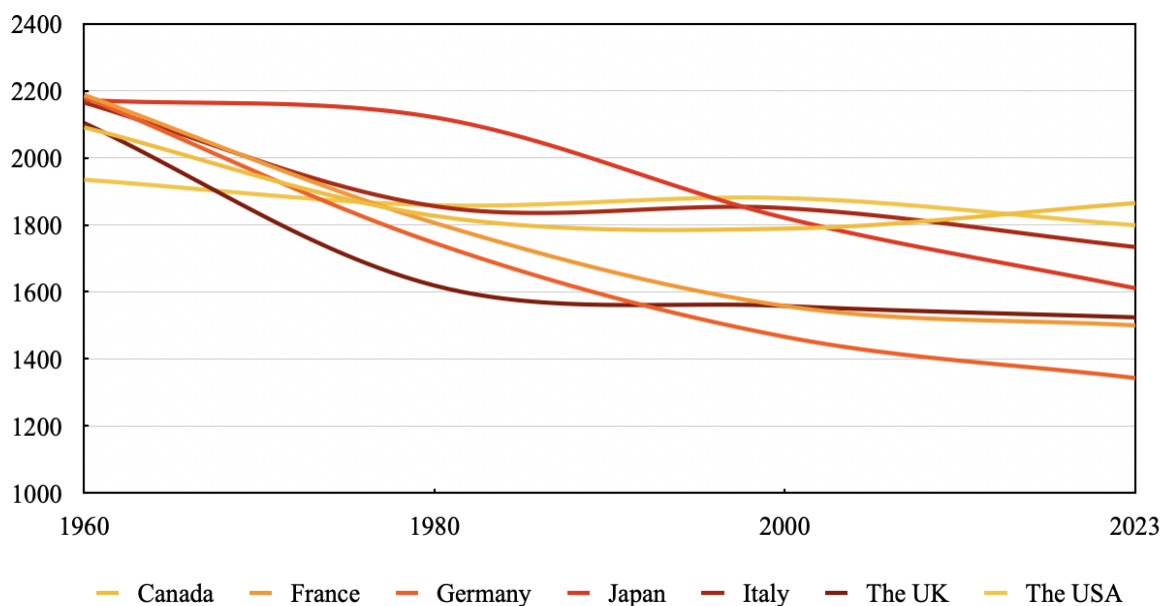
Innovations in AI prove the sustainable decline of average annual working hours in most developed countries. One of the most noticeable countries experiencing the changes in working hours is Japan. In 1960, when AI was only first founded a few years before, the applications of AI in different fields, including economy, was ambiguous while countries were trying to evaluate new technology systems from a policy perspective to shape the power of these tools in the future. Over more than 60 years, from nearly 2200 hours a year per worker, the annual hours worked dropped significantly to 1800 and 1600 in 2000 and 2023 respectively. France and Germany, two power countries of the EU, witnessed a sustainable decrease and both remained below 1600 hours back in 2023. In the USA, the decline stopped in the late 1980s, and the hours per worker annually has remained flat since then due to domestic economic shifts. It could be seen that the common trend of working hours in these countries declined over years due to the increased productivity and redistribution of labor in these countries to maintain a high-skilled labors in the leading economic sector.

In labour markets, although the proliferation of AI could help aging societies maintain the effectiveness levels through the assistance in completing the substitutable tasks and concentrating skilled labor in non-substitutable occupations, the shared prosperity and advantages of digital technologies in work seems to be incomprehensive. Jobs making less than $20 per hour had an 83% probability of automation,

while jobs making over \$40 per hour only had a 4% chance of automation (CEA, 2016). The concerns regarding the equilibrium positive impacts of AI rise since the estimated percentage of jobs in emerging economies affected by AI exposure is 40% while that of low-income countries is 26% (IMF, 2024), which means many citizens from developing and least developed countries face automation-driven economic risks. Therefore, the visibility of AI could increase the influence of democratic decisions of some civil groups and decrease that of others.

Linking the susceptibility to automation of tasks with the occupation, employment and wage data, 47% of US employment is at high risk of automation (Frey and Osborne 2013). However, much automation will not substitute for labor in occupations, instead AI will be adopted to lower labor costs (MGI report) and create new jobs. Each technological revolution in history has yielded new job categories, such as in the 20th century, the US with the mechanization of agriculture became one of the first examples of automation that could lead to the growth of new jobs and industries. The emergence of AI will create opportunities for 890 million job creation until 2030 (Manyika and Sneader, 2018). As companies adopt AI - based techniques in their working procedures, skilled individuals will be recruited for the diverse and rapidly evolving demands of the tech-driven landscape, to either manage or oversee the work flow of companies. This creates the demand for professionals versed in new industries, such as machine learning, cybersecurity analytics and psychological understanding of human-AI interaction. The narratives of companies that actively embraced AI technology also reveal their profound capacities in launching new career opportunities in the future. Within the year from 2019 to 2024, the deployment of AI in predictive analytics has led to the creation of over 200,000 new jobs in telemedicine and health data management across the US and 100,000 new positions focused on the management of robotic systems and maintenance. The growing trend of new jobs and roles that has been introduced is a testament to emphasizing the potential of AI in fostering economic growth strategies, wherein AI acts as the catalyst for the appearance of new jobs rather than a precursor to job loss on a global scale. Most developed economies have experienced declines in the number of employees participating in the labor force, but the large heterogeneity of those declines with the inapparent relationship to automation suggest the unemployment issues are affected beyond the degree of automation. Furthermore, in developed countries, automating low-wage jobs not only help increase the position for middle-paid and high-paid jobs, but also result in higher quality of output per worker in the remaining work force, so the wages of workers in companies tend to be increased in those countries.

Figure 3. Annual growth rates by 2035 of Gross Value Added in 12 countries with the Deployment of AI into the Economy (%)

Source: Accenture and Frontier Economics

The research of The Accenture Institute for High Performance and Frontier Economics compared the size of each country's economy by 2035, which demonstrates the expected economic growth without the deployment of AI, and an AI scenario once the impact of AI has been absorbed in economic sectors. AI is expected to yield the highest economic benefits for the US, with the escalation of annual growth rate from 2.6% to 4.6% each year, resulting in an additional \$8.3 trillion in gross value added (GVA). In the UK, AI could add an additional \$814 billion to the economy by 2035, increasing its annual growth rate by 1.4%. Japan has the potential to triple its annual rate of gross value-added growth by 2035; Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany and other countries labeled in this graph could see their growth rates double. "Our

research demonstrates that as AI matures, it can propel economic growth and potentially serve as a powerful remedy for stagnant productivity and labor shortages of recent decades." (Paul Daugherty - Chief technology officer of Accenture, 2016). Overall, the deployment of AI has shaped political economic power within nations, which global powerhouses in AI technology will be most likely to diversify their sources of comparative advantage and elevate the country's position and reputation globally, with one of the most salient aspects belonging to political economic development.

2.3. AI in Democracy and Autocracy

The concept of democracy is traceable to the ancient Greeks and specifically the city-state of Athens in the fifth century B.C. The word democracy is derived from the Greek words 'demos', meaning people, and 'Kratos' meaning power or rule. Directly translated, democracy therefore means rule by the people, although originally the Greeks used it to mean the poor or the masses (EU, 2011). Democracy relies on people having balanced participation and representation in a society. Democracy rests upon different values, attitudes, and practices among cultures and societies in the world. Democracy societies prioritize protecting basic human rights such as freedom of speech and religion, the rights to have equitable protection under laws, and the opportunity to fully participate and represent in the political, economic, and cultural life of society, and those are committed to the principle of tolerance, cooperation, and compromise. The ways that democracy could be protected and differentiated from other types of government is to value citizen participation, they are a part of decision - making and communication process between the government and people, which ensure equality, transparency and accountability of what is happening. The nature of AI technologies, which mainly depend on the algorithm datasets programmed in the past, could continue inequality and discrimination, thereby weakening the democratic system. AI has trouble in recognizing those who belong to minority groups, which can lead to underrepresented groups that could risk further disenfranchisement and discrimination in government services or even the implementation of policy frameworks based on digitally collected contributions and preferences from citizens. Furthermore, AI can influence human habits and behaviors in both positive and negative ways; however, unintended biases and stereotypes are hardly avoided since AI companies with different insights still control the ways AI is corporate into human lives. Without proper orientation, AI can therefore tailor people' preferences and perspectives, leading to an "undemocratic" society where personal opinions are distorted.

About elections, which are considered as the backbone of democracy, the use of AI in this field is limited but still has the potential to improve the transparency and accessibility of the electoral process. However, AI could also pose significant threats to the integrity of elections since governments may use AI to predict the election's outcomes, track the emotional swing of electorates and possibly give the parties pretext to challenge the results rather than accept. AI systems unfairly manipulate and influence voters' behaviors through deep fakes, disinformation and biases from the holding companies or founders, hence reinforce forms of prejudice and stereotyping regarding electorates and compromise the fairness of democratic electoral process. In many countries, the intersection of AI and media platforms could change the insight of ones to political candidates while it will suggest and shape the choices of citizens based on what that citizen has read or absorbed from different platforms. The spread of AI implications in electioneering could also indirectly create competitive differentiation through microtargeting; nevertheless, among 19 elections identified to show AI interference in the United Kingdom, none demonstrated any "clear signs of significant changes in election results compared to the expected performance of political candidates from polling data" (The Alan Turing Institute, 2023). Therefore, the impact of AI on human progress is considered to be politically neutral, without ideological biases against or favoring any particular type of regime.

Autocracy is a form of government in which one ruler has absolute control and decision-making power. Autocracies have existed since ancient times when emperors ruled their territories and tribal lands, and autocracy societies exist in today's world in the form of absolute monarchies and dictatorships. There is no constitutional limit on the ruler's power and dissent from the people or the press is not tolerated. With the concentration of power in the decisions of rulers, AI could have a political legitimacy in this regime, assisting the leaders with the decision - making process. The political decision process is divided into five main components: agenda setting, policy formulation, decision-making, implementation and oversight (Roland W. Scholz, 1983). As far as equitable representation among social classes is concerned, the most distinct application of AI in this political system would be to understand and analyze the opinions and

sentiments of citizens through big data algorithms. AI would refine its automation system to allow governments granular scrutiny to understand the society's main issues, people' demands and opinions upon current strategies. In authoritarian settings, legitimacy comes from a consensus among the major political players or oligarchs, while political capital is obtained through suppression. Once the political decision - making process is overwhelmingly based on the impacts of automation and algorithms, the policy making and accountability check process become detached from political legitimacy and nation's sovereignty, which leads to the whole governmental system relies on the AI's capabilities. Without a strict legislative framework, this automation process could burden democracy representation and threaten its respective society. While most liberal democracies would need more time to closely monitor the effects of utilizing AI technologies in governmental processes, autocracies take advantage of this system with the prospect of increasing policy effectiveness and keeping up with the speed trends. Regardless of how much AI could improve governmental decision and implementation process in autocracies, there is one constant that the implication AI politics must be hypothesized: algorithmic structures can never make perfect decision in policy activities due to the non - existence concept of a 'perfect' or 'objective decision,' in politics (James W. Dean and Mark P. Sharfman, 1996), and the limited ability to comprehend the complexity of systemic data (Koch, 2015). Therefore, based on cultural and national orientation, different political systems would find a balanced approach to allow AI encroachment into human's inherent processes.

3. Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly emerging as one of the most influential technologies of the 21st century, with profound implications for the political landscape on a global scale. Initially designed to enhance efficiency in industries and improve decision-making processes, AI's capabilities have expanded dramatically, positioning it as a key player in global security, defense, political economics and governance. As countries harness AI to bolster national security, streamline diplomacy, and strengthen economic competitiveness with the appearance of 890 million new jobs until 2030, it is clear that AI is no longer just a tool for technological advancement, but a strategic asset with the potential to reshape global power dynamics. This transformation is happening across a variety of sectors. In diplomacy, AI is being used to analyze vast amounts of data and predict political trends, while in military and defense strategies, autonomous systems are becoming more prominent, such as Project Maven, ISTAR (The US), AVIC WZ-8 (China), Defense AI Council (India), etc. Economically, AI is changing the global balance of power by giving an edge to nations that lead in AI research and development; many developed countries have the potential to double its annual rate of gross value-added growth by 2035. It is essential to understand how AI is influencing the geopolitical landscape and what this means for the future of global governance, cooperation, and conflict.

4. Methodology

The author combines different methods to evaluate the impacts of AI in the transformation of global politics, such as:

Theoretical frameworks: Define AI, global politics, political economics and other important concepts to have the general knowledge about the research topic.

Compare and contrast methods to demonstrate the changes in the picture of global politics with and without the implications of AI while examining the similarities and differences between the impacts of AI in different countries in the world;

Logical, statistical, synthesis, data processing and forecasting methods to provide in-depth analysis with numbers to better conclude the changes and predict future trends of AI in revolutionizing the world.

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