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The Future of State Sovereignty in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) poses a multitude of philosophical questions about the role of the state in regulating and governing society. This paper investigates the impact of AI on state sovereignty, examining the way AI-enabled technologies change social, cultural, economic and political norms, and consequently challenge traditional concepts of territorial and jurisdictional sovereignty. It reviews the historical conception of state sovereignty and the new challenges posed by AI-enabled technologies, including its impact on national security, democracy and geopolitics. It analyzes the legal challenges of AI and the role of international organizations in regulating AI and preserving state sovereignty. Furthermore, the paper considers the impact of AI on developing countries and how it is affecting social, cultural, economic and political systems. Finally, it evaluates the social and cultural implications of AI and the need for international cooperation to promote responsible development and use of AI technologies. The paper concludes with philosophical reflections on the future of state sovereignty in the age of AI, proposing recommendations for preserving state sovereignty in the face of rapid technological change.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, State Sovereignty, AI Challenges, National Security, International Law

Introduction

In the 21st century, the emergence of new technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), has led to an increased interest in the role of state sovereignty in international relations. State sovereignty is the foundation of the modern international system, and its importance cannot be overstated. Sovereignty refers to the idea that states are autonomous entities with the power to make decisions without interference from other states (De Benoist, 1999). However, the expansion of AI has posed

challenges to state sovereignty, with some arguing that AI is diminishing the power of the state (Araya, 2019). In this paper, we explore the impact of AI on state sovereignty and discuss its implications for the future of international relations.

The enduring notion of state sovereignty can be traced back to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, where the principle of territorial integrity and the right of states to self-determination were established as foundational tenets of international relations (Krasner, 1999). Sovereignty has been hailed as the bedrock of the contemporary international system and a pivotal principle of international jurisprudence for countless years. Notwithstanding, the concept of sovereignty has been subjected to significant strain in modern times, courtesy of the proliferation of globalization and the advent of cutting-edge technologies, such as AI.

AI is a sophisticated and dynamic computational system that employs advanced algorithms to accurately interpret external data, assimilate the knowledge acquired from this information, and subsequently leverage such learnings to accomplish specific objectives and tasks through a highly adaptable and flexible approach (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2019). The development of AI has led to significant changes in various aspects of life, including economic, social, and political spheres. For example, AI has transformed the way people interact with one another, the way businesses operate, and the way governments make decisions. The impact of AI on state sovereignty is a relatively new area of research, and the existing literature has provided mixed results. Some scholars argue that AI is challenging state sovereignty, as AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons and cyberattacks can bypass state borders and undermine traditional notions of state authority (Taeihagh, 2021). Others suggest that AI is reinforcing state sovereignty, as governments are using AI to enhance their surveillance capabilities and strengthen their control over their populations (Paltieli, 2022).

This paper aims to explore the impact of AI on state sovereignty and provide insights into the future of international relations in an era of rapid technological change. The following chapters will examine the historical and contemporary understanding of state sovereignty, the economic and legal implications of AI for state sovereignty, the role of international organizations in regulating AI and preserving state sovereignty, and the social and cultural implications of AI for state sovereignty.

Understanding State Sovereignty

The concept of state sovereignty has been a key foundation of the modern international system. Sovereignty has traditionally been defined as the influence of the state to exercise control over its territory and its people without external interference (Werner & De Wilde, 2001). This concept has been challenged over time, especially with the rise of globalization and the emergence of new technologies such as AI. This part provides an overview of the historical and contemporary understanding of state sovereignty, and how it has been challenged in recent years.

The notion of sovereignty can be drawn back to the 16th century, with the emergence of the modern state system in Europe. During this period, European monarchs consolidated their power and began to assert their authority over their territories. The Peace of Westphalia in 1648 marked a significant turning point in the development of state sovereignty. This treaty recognized the principle of territorial integrity and the right of nations to self-determination, laying the foundation for the modern international system (Osiander, 2001). During the 19th and 20th centuries, the notion of sovereignty gained paramount importance in both the legal and political spheres of international relations. Following the conclusion of World War-I, the principle of sovereignty was firmly embedded in the covenant of the League of Nations, and subsequently in the Charter of the United Nations. Sovereignty evolved into an indispensable and overarching principle of international law, serving as the foundation of the contemporary global order (Britannica, 2022).

In recent years, state sovereignty has faced significant challenges. The rise of globalization has led to the erosion of traditional notions of sovereignty, as the world has become more interconnected and interdependent. The proliferation of international organizations, such as the WTO and the International Criminal Court, has also limited the power of the state to make decisions without external interference (Bharadwaj, 2003; Hurrell, 2007). The emergence of new technologies, particularly AI, has posed new challenges to state sovereignty. AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons and cyberattacks have the potential to bypass state borders and undermine traditional notions of state authority (Johnson, 2019). Additionally, the use of AI in surveillance and control measures has raised questions about the role of the state in regulating the use of this technology and protecting individual rights (Ienca & Vayena, 2020).

The emergence of AI has led to a re-evaluation of the concept of sovereignty. Some scholars argue that AI is challenging state sovereignty, as it enables non-state actors to exercise power and influence in ways that were previously not possible (Timmers, 2021). For example, AI can be used to conduct cyberattacks that can have a significant impact on a state's security and stability. Similarly, the use of AI in the development of autonomous weapons raises questions about the ability of the nation to control the use of force and protect its citizens (Bryson et al., 2017). Conversely, some scholars argue that AI is reinforcing state sovereignty, as governments are using AI to enhance their surveillance capabilities and strengthen their control over their populations (Jelinek et al., 2020). The use of AI in border control and immigration policies, for example, has enabled states to more effectively regulate their borders and control the movement of people and goods. State sovereignty is a fundamental principle of the modern international system. However, it has been confronted in recent years, especially with the rise of globalization and the emergence of new technologies such as AI. AI-enabled technologies have the potential to both challenge and reinforce state sovereignty, and the impact of AI on state sovereignty is still a somewhat innovative area of research.

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Shaping State Sovereignty

AI is transforming the world in numerous ways. Its influence is being felt in economic, social, and political spheres, and it is changing the way people interact with one another. As AI becomes more prevalent, it is having a significant impact on state sovereignty. In this chapter, we reconnoiter the role of AI in shaping state sovereignty, and how it is challenging traditional notions of state authority.

AI has the potential to both challenge and reinforce state sovereignty. The use of AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons and cyberattacks can bypass state borders and undermine traditional notions of state authority (Buchan, 2012). In this sense, AI is eroding state sovereignty, as it enables non-state actors to exercise power and influence in ways that were previously not possible. At the same time, AI is also being used by states to enhance their surveillance capabilities and strengthen their control over their populations (Ienca & Vayena, 2020). The use of AI in border control and immigration policies, for example, has enabled states to more effectively regulate their borders and control the movement of people and goods. In this sense, AI is seen as reinforcing state sovereignty, as it enables states to exercise greater control over their territories and populations.

The rise of AI is also challenging traditional notions of state authority. In the past, states exercised authority over their territories and populations through a range of means, including the use of force, law enforcement, and the provision of public services (Schachter, 1983). However, the emergence of AI is changing the nature of state authority, as non-state actors are now able to exercise power and influence in ways that were previously not possible (Mutschler & Bales, 2023). AI-enabled technologies such as social media and online platforms have given rise to new forms of power and influence, which can be wielded by non-state actors such as corporations, individuals, and even machines (Zhan et al., 2023). These new forms of power are challenging traditional notions of state authority, as states are no longer the sole source of power and influence in the international system.

One of the most significant challenges posed by AI to state sovereignty is the rise of autonomous weapons. Autonomous weapons are AI-enabled systems that can identify and engage targets without human intervention. The development and deployment of autonomous weapons are raising questions about the ability of states to control the use of force and protect their citizens (Bryson et al., 2017). The deployment of autonomous weapons has the potential to challenge traditional notions of state sovereignty, as these weapons can bypass state borders and undermine state authority. Additionally, the development and deployment of autonomous weapons raise questions about the ability of states to regulate the use of force and prevent conflicts.

AI is having a significant impact on state sovereignty, challenging traditional notions of state authority and giving rise to new forms of power and influence. The use of AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons and cyberattacks is eroding state sovereignty, as non-state actors are now able to exercise power and influence in ways that were previously not possible. Simultaneously, the use of AI in border control and immigration policies is reinforcing state sovereignty, as it enables states to exercise greater control over their territories and populations. As the development of AI continues, the challenges and opportunities it poses for state sovereignty will need to be carefully considered.

The Economic Implications of AI for State Sovereignty

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the global economy, with significant implications for state sovereignty. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way businesses operate and interact with one another. This chapter explores the economic implications of AI for state sovereignty, including the impact on the global economic system and the ability of states to control their economies.

AI is having a significant impact on the global economic system. The use of AI-enabled technologies such as automation and machine learning are changing the way businesses operate and the skills that are required of workers. This is leading to the displacement of some workers and the creation of new jobs in the digital economy (Bughin et al., 2018). The rise of AI is also having an impact on the competitiveness of nations. Countries that are early adopters of AI-enabled technologies are likely to have a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. This is because AI can enable businesses to be more efficient, reduce costs, and develop new products and services.

The development of AI is a complex and costly process that requires significant investment in research and development. The significance of state participation in the advancement of artificial intelligence is paramount in the current discourse. The active engagement of governments in terms of financial backing and bolstering research and development endeavors pertaining to AI-enabled innovations is a critical prerequisite for the realization of the full potential of this nascent technology. At the same time, the development of AI is also creating new challenges for states. The rapid pace of technological change means that governments must be able to adapt quickly to new developments in AI, or risk falling behind. Additionally, the development of AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons is raising questions about the ability of states to regulate the use of force and protect their citizens (Bryson et al., 2017).

The rise of AI is changing the way that states exercise sovereignty over their economies. Traditionally, states have used a range of tools such as trade policies, tariffs, and regulations to control their economies. However, the development of AI-enabled technologies is challenging the ability of states to regulate economic activity. One of the most significant challenges posed by AI to state sovereignty is the impact of global supply chains. The rise of AI-enabled technologies such as automation and machine learning are leading to the development of more complex and integrated global supply chains. The utilization of artificial intelligence in the production of novel commodities

and amenities is exacerbating the complexity for governing entities to command the transit of these entities over their geographical limits (Bughin et al., 2018). The conception of AI-empowered innovations, such as self-governing automobiles, is engendering inquiries concerning the potential of states to supervise traffic safety and warrant the safeguarding of their populace (Bryson et al., 2017).

AI is having a significant impact on the global economy, with implications for state sovereignty. The rise of AI-enabled technologies is changing the way businesses operate and the skills required of workers. This is leading to the displacement of some workers and the creation of new jobs in the digital economy. Additionally, the development of AI is creating new challenges for states, as they must adapt quickly to new developments in AI or risk falling behind. As the development of AI continues, the challenges and opportunities it poses for state sovereignty in the economic sphere will need to be carefully considered.

The Legal Challenges of AI to State Sovereignty

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is giving rise to a range of legal challenges for governments and societies around the world. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way people live, work, and interact with one another. This chapter explores the legal challenges of AI to state sovereignty, including the issues of jurisdiction and privacy.

The development of AI is creating new jurisdictional challenges for states. AI-enabled technologies such as social media and online platforms have given rise to new forms of power and influence, which can be wielded by non-state actors such as corporations, individuals, and machines (Horowitz et al., 2018). The global nature of AI development and deployment means that it is increasingly difficult for states to control the usage of AI. This is because AI-enabled technologies are not bound by national borders and can be deployed from anywhere in the world.

As AI development and deployment have a worldwide reach, the need for global governance of AI is increasingly acknowledged to ensure that its development and utilization align with ethical and legal standards, and do not infringe on individuals' human rights (Schmitt, 2022). The creation of global AI governance is a multifaceted undertaking that necessitates the participation of numerous stakeholders, such as governments, scholars, and civil society organizations (Erdélyi & Goldsmith, 2018). Yet, such governance is indispensable to guarantee that AI's development and utilization adhere to ethical and legal norms.

The application of AI in decision-making is raising concerns about the protection of individual privacy. AI-enabled algorithms can be biased towards certain groups, leading to discriminatory outcomes (LaBrie & Steinke, 2019). Additionally, the application of AI-enabled technologies such as facial recognition and predictive policing is raising questions about the ability of states to protect the privacy and civil liberties of their citizens (Ienca & Vayena, 2020). The development of AI is also creating new challenges for states in regulating the collection, storage, and use of personal data. This is because AI-enabled technologies are increasingly able to collect and analyze large amounts of personal data, raising concerns about the potential for the misuse of this data.

AI poses legal challenges that highlight the importance of establishing legal frameworks to guide its development and use. These frameworks are necessary to ensure that AI is developed and used in accordance with ethical and legal standards, without violating the human rights of individuals (Formosa et al., 2021). Developing legal frameworks for AI is a multifaceted endeavor that involves input from various stakeholders, such as governments, academics, and civil society organizations. Despite its complexity, creating these frameworks is crucial to ensuring that AI adheres to ethical and legal norms. Governments and societies worldwide are facing various legal issues due to the emergence of AI. These issues challenge state sovereignty and necessitate the creation of legal

structures to oversee its growth and application. With the continued progress of AI, it is crucial to thoroughly examine and address the legal obstacles it presents.

The Role of International Organizations in Regulating AI and Preserving State Sovereignty

The development of AI is a global phenomenon, and its impact on state sovereignty has important implications for international organizations. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way people live, work, and interact with one another. This chapter examines the role of international organizations in regulating the development and use of AI and their potential to preserve state sovereignty. International cooperation is necessary to regulate the development and use of AI, which has become a global phenomenon. The United Nations and the European Union are two international organizations that have an important role in overseeing AI governance. The United Nations has launched several initiatives to address the challenges associated with AI, such as the United Nations Global Pulse and the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (Garcia, 2020), which aim to establish a shared understanding of the ethical and legal implications of AI and to promote responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies. The European Union has also taken action to regulate AI development and use by introducing new rules in April 2021 to manage AI use in the European Union, including the prohibition of certain AI-enabled technologies that are deemed high-risk (Gstrein, 2022).

The development of AI is challenging traditional notions of state sovereignty. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way businesses operate and the skills required of workers. Additionally, the development of AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons is raising questions about the ability of states to regulate the use of force and protect their citizens (Bryson et al., 2017). International organizations have an important role to play in preserving state sovereignty in the face of these challenges. International organizations can contribute to ensuring that the development of AI does not threaten the sovereignty of states by promoting the responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies. Furthermore, these organizations can assist in the promotion of AI-enabled technologies that are aligned with the interests and values of member states. In this way, the development of AI can be regulated in a manner that does not jeopardize member states' control over their economic, social, and political domains (Erdélyi & Goldsmith, 2018). The development and use of AI are a global issue that requires international collaboration, and international organizations have a crucial role to play in AI governance and safeguarding state sovereignty in the face of AI-related challenges.

AI and National Security

The development of AI is having a significant impact on national security, and this impact is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way countries defend themselves and interact with one another. This part examines the impact of AI on national security and how state sovereignty is being affected by the new threats posed by AI. The development of AI is changing the nature of national security, and this is creating new challenges for states. AI-enabled technologies such as autonomous weapons and cyberweapons are giving rise to new forms of power and influence, which can be wielded by states and non-state actors alike. AI-enabled technologies are also changing the way countries defend themselves against traditional forms of attack. For example, the use of AI in border security is enabling countries to detect and prevent the movement of weapons, drugs, and people across their borders. The impact of AI on national security is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. The development of AI-enabled technologies such as cyberweapons and autonomous weapons is changing the way countries defend themselves against traditional forms of attack, and is raising questions about the ability of states to regulate the use of force and protect their citizens (Bryson et al., 2017). The development of AI-enabled technologies is challenging traditional notions of territorial sovereignty. This is because

AI-enabled technologies can be deployed from anywhere in the world and are not bound by national borders.

As AI development and deployment occur on a worldwide scale, it becomes increasingly evident that collaborating on AI and national security is imperative. Working together on ethical and legal implications is essential to promote responsible AI-enabled technology use. Moreover, international cooperation is critical to safeguard state sovereignty and prevent AI development from becoming a threat (Saylor, 2020). To prevent the loss of control over economic, social, and political domains of member states due to the development of AI, international cooperation is necessary. The changing nature of national security brought about by the development of AI poses new challenges to state sovereignty. To address this, international cooperation is required to develop a mutual understanding of the ethical and legal implications of AI and to promote responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies. As AI development progresses, it is crucial to carefully assess the challenges it presents for national security and state sovereignty (Erdélyi & Goldsmith, 2018).

The Geopolitics of AI

The advancement of AI is shaping global politics, and this is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way countries interact with one another and the power dynamics that underlie the international system. This chapter examines the geopolitics of AI and how state sovereignty is being impacted by the rise of AI. The development of AI is changing the dynamics of global politics in several ways. First, AI-enabled technologies are giving rise to new forms of power and influence, which can be wielded by states and non-state actors alike. This is changing the way countries interact with one another and the power dynamics that underlie the international system (Hudson, 2019). Second, the development of AI is giving rise to new economic opportunities and challenges, which are having an impact on the global economy. AI-enabled technologies are changing the nature of work and the skills required of workers, and are leading to the development of new industries and business models (Dwivedi et al., 2021). Third, the development of AI is creating new challenges for the safety of individual rights and the rule of law (Leslie et al., 2021). AI-enabled technologies such as facial recognition and predictive policing are raising questions about the ability of states to protect the privacy and civil liberties of their citizens (Mahapatra, 2021). The geopolitics of AI is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. The development of AI-enabled technologies is challenging traditional notions of territorial sovereignty, as these technologies can be deployed from anywhere in the world and are not bound by national borders (Goode, 2021). Additionally, the rise of AI is changing the balance of power between states, and this is having an impact on the ability of states to pursue their interests in the international system. States that are at the forefront of AI development and deployment are likely to have a significant advantage over those that are not, and this could lead to a shift in the power dynamics of the international system (Horowitz, 2018).

Given the global nature of AI development and deployment, there is a growing recognition of the need for international cooperation on the geopolitics of AI. International cooperation is necessary to develop a shared understanding of the ethical and legal implications of AI, and to promote the responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies. International cooperation is also necessary to ensure that the development of AI does not undermine state sovereignty (Meltzer & Kerry, 2021). By promoting the responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies, international cooperation can help to ensure that the development of AI does not lead to a loss of control over the economic, social, and political domains of member states. The development of AI is changing the dynamics of global politics, and this is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. The geopolitics of AI requires international cooperation to develop a shared understanding of the ethical and legal implications of AI and to promote the responsible development and use of AI-enabled

technologies. As the development of AI continues, the challenges it poses for state sovereignty and global politics will need to be carefully considered.

AI and the Future of Democracy

The progress of AI is having a profound impact on democratic systems of governance, and this impact is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. As AI-enabled technologies become more prevalent, they are changing the way governments operate, interact with their citizens, and make decisions. This chapter examines the impact of AI on democratic systems of governance and how this affects state sovereignty.

The development of AI is changing the way democratic systems of governance operate in several ways. First, AI-enabled technologies are changing the way governments interact with their citizens. AI-enabled technologies such as chatbots and virtual assistants are being used by governments to provide citizens with information and services, and to enable citizens to interact with their governments more easily (Djeffal, 2019). Second, the development of AI is changing the way governments make decisions. AI-enabled technologies such as predictive analytics and machine learning algorithms are being used by governments to analyze data and make decisions about everything from healthcare to public safety (Ngiam & Khor, 2019). Third, the development of AI is raising questions about the ability of citizens to hold their governments accountable. AI-enabled technologies are creating new forms of power and influence, which can be wielded by governments and non-state actors alike and are changing the dynamics of public discourse (Soare, 2020).

The impact of AI on democratic systems of governance is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. The development of AI-enabled technologies is challenging traditional notions of territorial sovereignty, as these technologies can be deployed from anywhere in the world and are not bound by national borders (Zekos, 2022). Additionally, the impact of AI on democratic systems of governance is changing the way countries interact with one another in the international system. Countries that are at the forefront of AI development and deployment are likely to have a significant advantage over those that are not, and this could lead to a shift in the power dynamics of the international system.

Global collaboration is becoming more necessary as AI is developed and deployed worldwide. This collaboration is vital to establishing a shared understanding of the legal and ethical implications of AI and promoting responsible development and use of AI technology. Additionally, international cooperation is crucial in preventing AI from undermining democratic systems. Endorsing responsible AI development and usage through this collaboration can safeguard member states' control over their economic, social, and political domains (Kerry et al., 2021). AI development is altering democratic governance, posing new challenges for state sovereignty that necessitate international cooperation. A shared understanding of AI's ethical and legal implications is required, along with the promotion of responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies. Ongoing development of AI demands close examination of the impact on democratic systems of governance and state sovereignty.

Recommendations and Future Research Directions

This paper studies the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on state sovereignty, which is facing new challenges due to the changing nature of state-citizen and state-state interactions. Here are the recommendations and highlights future research directions to tackle these challenges.

Recommendations

To establish a common ground on the legal and ethical implications of AI, international collaboration is essential. The cooperation should involve the creation of standards and regulations that prevent the development of AI from compromising state sovereignty.

Encouraging transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights should be a priority for both non-state actors and governments to ensure responsible development and use of AI technology.

Inclusive AI development should involve diverse stakeholders like civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. This will promote the fair distribution of AI benefits and prevent a loss of control over member states' political, social, and economic domains.

Future Research Directions

- Additional research is required to examine how AI is affecting human rights, including but not limited to the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and the right to a fair trial.
- Further investigation is necessary to explore the impact of AI on economic systems, including employment and the nature of work.
- More research is needed to understand the effect of AI on public discourse, including the dissemination of misinformation and political polarization.
- To comprehend how AI is affecting social and economic development and state sovereignty in developing countries, more research is necessary.

Conclusion

The development of AI is changing the way states interact with one another and with their citizens, and this impact is posing new challenges for state sovereignty. To ensure that the development of AI does not undermine state sovereignty, it is essential that states work together to promote the responsible development and use of AI-enabled technologies. This includes the development of regulations and standards, the promotion of transparency and accountability, and an investment in research and development. As the development of AI continues, it is essential that we work together to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared equitably and that the development of AI does not lead to a loss of control over the domains of member states.

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