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FROM BALANCE OF POWER TO BALANCE OF ALGORITHM: REVISITING REALISM IN SOCIETY 5.0

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Abstract
Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a technological innovation, it transforms the ways of interactions of states, institutions and societies. It has a dual nature, posses both risks and opportunities. It enhance communication, predictions and defence system and also creates challenges due to deep fake, misleading information and cyber frauds. These realities rises a question that the traditional theories of international relations are developed according to the world where power is only associated by state, wars are won by powerful military and weapons but now AI redefines the definition of power and changes the ways which are used to win the war in battlefield. This article revisit realism to examines how international relations are reshaped by Artificial Intelligence and Balance of power changes into Balance of Algorithm.

INTRODUCTION
Technology is transforming every aspect of the modern world, it not only changes the ways of life's of people, it also change how nations interact with one another in the global arena. International confrontations in past involves boundaries, armies, and weaponry in the past and they were the main factors at that time. However, in this digital age number of conflicts are currently taking place due to various factors including online warfare, cyberattacks, and artificial intelligence (AI). In contrast to previous battles, these new challenges have increased the complexity and unpredictability of world affairs.

International relations (IR) is the study that enables us to comprehend that what are the causes of wars,ways through which nations interact, and strategies for preserving peace or sort the conflicts. Various theories have been created over time to explain global occurrences, including constructivism, liberalism, and realism but these theories are developed long before, today the world of politics changed a lot . The sophisticated technology like artificial intelligence, cyber tools and deep fake technology plays an active role in modern warfare . This raises an important question of whether outdated theories

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may still be used to comprehend the contemporary issues facing the world.

This research work will focus on one of the traditional IR theories which is Realism. Realism has been the leading theory in international relations for nearly a century and known as a Bible of International Relations. It will focus on is Realism still explains the current issues like cyberwarfare and the use of artificial intelligence in international politics effectively or not. It will examine how nations are use this technology and what goals they wants to achieve by utilizing this miraculous technology. This research tries to analyze is nations use these digital means to safeguard themselves, acquire power, or spy on others, and how this is altering the definitions of security, peace, and conflict.

Methodology

This research uses Qualitative research method to examine, aiming to analyze how realism can be revisited in the era of Artificial intelligence and impact of Algorithmic decision making on this conventional theory.

Literature Review

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becomes as a game-changer in international relations. Nations shifts their priorities of assessment of global events from conventional framework to advanced technology due to Artificial Intelligence. Scholars views AI as a competitive advantage that have abilities to shift international power play and also have capability to redefine national security of nations rather then only a technological innovation (Amaresh, 2020) . As major powers such as the United States and China accelerate their pursuit of AI dominance, an arms race-like dynamic emerges, reminiscent of classical realist concerns with power balancing and security dilemmas (Castro, McLaughlin, & Chivot, 2019).This dynamic is particularly visible in military innovation, where the integration of AI into semi-autonomous and fully autonomous weapon systems dramatically changes how decisions are made in operational scenarios, ultimately transforming modern warfare. (Congressional Research Service, 2020).

Scholars observations reveals that AI is not just a tool, it also introduce new forms of capabilities. Inter-state relations and national interests are redefined and influenced by cyber and digital power. The concept of society 5.0 I introduced by japan refered to the digital era that promote smart and human centered society which is driven by digital innovation (Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, n.d.). The political side of AI cannot be ignored in this era. States use this innovative technology for the protection of their digital borders, maintain national sovereignty and to control data system.

Scholars argues that realism must involve non traditional dimensions of power to fit in the modern era's political system. Scholars have both positive and negative views about the digital involvement in political system, Erskine (2024) argues about the digital involvement and emergence of technology as a challenge for the moral and institutional agencies in world politics while Gladden (2020) perceives digital transformation in society 5.0 to broader shifts in human and algorithmic interaction. These developments shows that realism must have to shift the focus from material capabilities to algorithmic influence, data sovereignty, and technological intelligence as new determinants of state power.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and World Politics

The period in which we are living known as Forth Industrial Revolution, a period of technological change. In previous times first period(1st) is steam power , second period(2nd) is electricity and mass production, third period(3rd) is computing and now its fourth period(4th) which is known as Fourth industrial revolution. Unlike previous periods it combines a number of thing in it like Artificial Intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, internet of things and many

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others. All these technologies merge with each other and creates a new form of revolution (Schwab, 2016).

Artificial Intelligence(AI) is not just an idea it becomes the center of power now, from training of small AI assistants like Alexa or siri to complex models for the analysis of big data sets. AI plays an active role in every aspect of life today. The revolutions in the field of AI is not just effecting the tech industry it also reshape economies and international relation, states and non-state actors in global arena tries to adopt this technological innovation to be a part of new dynamics of power.

Impacts if AI on International Relations

Artificial intelligence and international relations are interconnected with each other, the structure of power, security and cooperation changes a lot due to AI. From the beginning of international relations power is understood by military strength, economic resources and diplomatic influence but rise of AI introduce a new kind of power which is called algorithmic strength. Now a day it is impossible to make any strategic decision without Artificial intelligence, because it influence every aspect of global politics.

Unlike traditional IR, cyberattacks paralyzed the global infrastructure with in seconds without shooting a single fire it can target healthcare facilities, banks or power grids. A notable example of cyberattack that paralyzed the infrastructure is NotPetya cyberattack in 2017 (White House, 2018). it shows the intensity of danger which is created by AI is much more than tanks and missile. It challenges the historical assumption of AI that state is the primary actor in the world, today most powerful AI systems are owned by private tech companies like Google, Amazon and OpenAI. They have the ability to control the decision making in world politics through data, infrastructure and innovation.

AI also influence world politics through soft power like culture, values and traditions. One of the most notable thing of AI is spread of disinformation and use of deep fake. Over 70 countries documented that AI powered disinformation campaigns effects election through reshaping public opinions (Bradshaw & Howard, 2019). it shows that AI is not just used as military and economic weapon in the modern world it also become a weapon of influence which is more dangerous thing then military means.

AI becomes a more important force which plays an important role in shaping International relation in global order of 21st century. Ignoring AI during the study of IR means to not include an important factor, it just not a tool or a technology it becomes a Driver of change in the modern international relation.

AI and Governance

Use of AI by government is trending today, in authoritarian states AI powered facial recognition system is used for surveillance for example china's facial recognition system, it creates privacy issues and also human rights violation (Mozur, 2018). In democratic countries these AI systems are used for early predictions and smart policy making for defence purpose. In both conditions the main concern is privacy and accountability. Due to these conditions question arise about balance between security and civil liberties.

From a Realist point of view, main thing is protection of national interest, morals and ethical concerns are secondary things. In this sense the use of AI in surveillance and defence reflects the realist belief that every state have right to protect itself in international system.

The Society 5.0: Impacts on the Modern Era

Artificial intelligence is gone beyond the boundaries of laboratories and specialized industries. In this modern world AI is highly integrated into every aspect of daily life from social interaction to economy. As many state it society 5.0, it is not just the time where machines are becoming intelligent, it's an era where humans and machines works together and brings

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changes in every aspect of life. This transformation shapes the ways of communication, their thinking and working style and also influence the decision making, creativity and governance of humans in worlds politics.

Interconnection Between AI and IR

Artificial Intelligence(AI) is not just a technological innovation, it is a name of force that drives global politics also. This technological innovation creates challenges for the understanding that how international relations work around global arena. The traditional theories of international relations are developed taking an account of armies, ideas and market like Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism. At that times power is highly associated with these factors so, the theories explain International relations keeping view point of these but with the technological innovation the association of power changes from armies, market and ideas and get linked with Algorithms and cyber security. It rises the new uncertainties which are not account for these traditional IR theories originally. This interconnection between IR and AI shows the need to revisit these traditional frameworks or reconstruct them to fit in the modern world.

In this work we are going to analyze three major theories of IR (Realism, Liberalism and constructivism) in the era advanced technology.

First , rise of artificial Intelligence blurs the line between state and non-state actors. Realist thinkers consider state as a primary actor in international relations and the center of power but technological innovation makes this assumption complicated because private tech companies like Microsoft, Google and Huawei rules over the technological innovation which affects national security, decision making and even public opinions. This is the reality of time that shows the hybrid nature of power, now power is no longer only belongs to state it also have an active participation of private tech firms that reshapes the global order.

Second , cooperation and competition between states, Artificial Intelligence is used somewhere as a tool of cooperation like European Union or NATO and as a revelry between some states like US and China. European Union and NATO use AI for collective security , defence and governance, on the other hand it creates a revelry between US and China on the domination of AI standards. This dual nature of AI highlights the urgent need to revisit the liberalism to reconstruct it according to the time.

Third , AI is influencing how societies think about themselves, it is reshaping the ideas and norms of society. Social norms, ideas and beliefs are the central concern of constructivism, AI driven campaigns and propaganda about elections or any other thing affects the essence of this traditional theory of IR. AI is becoming not just a technological tool but also a normative force in global arena.

Finally , it challenges the foundation of IR that if AI is become the only source of knowledge production then the understanding of world affairs which is done by policymakers and analysts once is also done by these AI systems and they use this AI shaped knowledge. It makes AI essential for the study of IR. This interconnection between both fields shows the need to create flexibility for the adoption of technological advancement in the context of theories of international relations for the better understanding of world politics.

From Balance of Power to Balance of Algorithm

Introduction to realism

Realism is one of the most dominating theory in the field of international relations. realist view international system as anarchic it means there is no central authority or power above state. It offers a pragmatic view of global politics and anarchic nature of international system. Realism asserts that states are the rational actors and they use any mean to gather power for their survival. Thinkers like Niccolò Machiavelli, Henry Kissinger, Hans Morgenthau and Thomas

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Hobbes contributes to the development of realistic thoughts. Realism argues that states are competing with each other because states have selfish nature as states are made up with humans and human nature is selfish so the ultimate goal of states for the survival in the international system is power maximization. Hans Morgenthau the father of classical realism emphasized that the constant struggle of people and countries is what that shapes international politics(Scheuerman, 2009). Balance of power is the key to maintain peace in the world. But critiques argues that the concept of balance of power is short term because a time comes when one states show his aggressive tendencies and attack on the others, a war of two states begins from here. It's a strong criticism on realism that there definition of power maximization is very week and its impossible to maintain balance of power. Later a neorealist scholar Kenneth Waltz emerges a new idea and shift the focus from humans nature to structure of international relations. Kenneth argues that its not a selfish nature of human that force states to maximize power it's a chaotic , anarchic system of the world that force states to ensure their security. Realism focuses on individual level analysis and the behaviour of humans while neorealism shifts to emphasize that human nature is not selfish it the international system and unequal power distribution with in a global system that derives states behavior.

Realism is a old theory which is framed before emergence of advance technologies like AI and cybersecurity and only focuses on war, power and state survival that's why it is important to revisit this theory to analyze that if its ideas are still applicable and make sense in this era of cutting edge technologies. Today artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and autonomous decision making machines changed the world politics a lot.

Core assumptions of realism

Realism depends on many core assumptions that aims to explains the behaviour of states and reasons behind this behaviour of states. It is necessary to understand how realism defines conflict, cooperation and survival in the world politics.

Anarchy is one of the core assumption of realism it means there is no central authority or government in the world above states. Survival is essential, in this system states have right to protect themselves by using any mean . Due to lack of central authority there is always a chance of conflict. Anarchy encourages continuous risk of war and mistrust between states (E-IR, 2018).

Realism consider states as a main actors in the world they argues that there is no authority above states in the international system. They sees states as a unitary actors that they can make any decisions to achieve there national interest without any hesitation. States behave like they are the unitary actors ignoring other factors like internal division or political debates (OpenLearn, 2015).

Most fundamental interest of each state is survival they work to protect their existence and always take such decisions that ensure their protection from other states in the international arena. Realist believe that national interest, especially regarding security, serves as the fundamental principle of foreign policy (E-IR, 2018). In realist perspective power is generally defined as military strength, it may also include economic or technological strength. A classical realist Hans Morgenthau believes that humans are naturally power seekers and states are made up with them so power gathering and power maximization is the ultimate goal of a state.

These foundation ideas of realism helps scholars and policy makers to understand world politics for long time. However the rising trend of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence brings changes that challenges some of traditional view about world politics. Rise of these cutting edge technologies changes the countries perception of power and also the way of response in the international arena. Like such decisions that are made up by humans are now made by the use of algorithmic decision making which is

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not like human reasoning and also the concept of power is now much more than military strength. Having an advanced AI technology gives country a kind of superiority over other countries in the world. That's why it is necessary to revisit realism and analyze that this traditional theory explains today's world politics or we need to update or build new ideas for better understanding of what is happening today.

Reassessing Realist Assumptions in the Age of AI

For the understanding of world politics realism provides a strong framework for a long but in the transformation of how states compete,cooperate and secure their national interest in the digital age it is necessary to reassess the traditional Realism and its core assumptions. This study analyze and explore how these technological advancements affect the core assumptions of realism and how AI technologies reshape the ideas of realism like anarchy, power maximization, rationality and role of state in the international politics.

Anarchy and AI Driven Threats

Anarchy is one of the core assumption of realism it means there is no central authority in the world and states are the main actors in the world politics. States only depends on themselves for security and protection in this environment. This principle of self help sill applicable in this era of modernized technology but the nature of competition and rivalry between states changed significantly. Artificial intelligence have changed the way of traditional warfare. States perform hostile activities without crossing the borders and using weapons like tanks and guns modern conflicts involves AI-driven cyberconflicts, misinformation campaigns and digital surveillance's that operate at high speed without cautioning the original source of activities.

However realism talks about military power but advanced AI tools are defining a new form of strategic capabilities which are held in shadow. The anarchic system which is once dominated by visible military and strategic power is now dominated by invisible battles. Once states invests on strengthening military capabilities and solders but now they are investing on making themselves advanced in AI technologies and use cyberattacks instead of physical attacks. This shift from use of traditional ways of warfare to use of modernize technology in warfare, redefines what it means to survive and compete in anarchic system.

AI-Driven insecurity and the Bluring the line of peace and conflict

A new form of insecurity is created due to advanced development of intelligent automation and smart technology it challenges the assumptions of traditional understandings of realism like sovereignty, conflict and behaviour of states. Cyber attacks involving AI can disrupts grids of energy, manipulate public opinion and steal sensitive and confidential information which may cause more destruction than the destruction made by any military war engagement. These AI technologies makes a situation where level of destruction and consequences are unpredictable by anyone. "In the gray zone, activities like disinformation campaigns, data theft, and infrastructure disruption often fall short of armed conflict, making it difficult to determine when and how to respond" (Chertoff et , al., 2019). such gray zone activities disabled the sense of judgement of states that where and how to retaliate against such activities where it is harder to trace out the real culprits. These activities blurs the line between peace and conflict. This situation clearly challenged the realist notion that behavior of state is shaped by clear and visible threat but in this digital age treat and enemies are invisible.

Rationality and Autonomous Decision Making

Today political influence is determined by algorithmic dominance, advancement in machine learning and data processing. For example

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leading nations like china and US are engaged in race of advancement in AI technologies. It introduced Asymmetrical capabilities are introduced where small states even non state actors use AI technologies without matching military strength to compete with the states which are stronger then them. This creates more unpredictable situation in world political system. Realism assumes that states are rational and they always act to protect their national interest and all decisions are rational. However in this growing trend to use advanced AI technology specially in autonomous decision making, surveillance and predictive defence where decisions are made by autonomous system without involvement of human guidance questions the idea of realism that decision of states are rational.

One of the main idea of realism is rationality, they think carefully and make decisions to protect their national interest. But in today's world this idea is challenged by tech companies or cyber groups. They have a huge influence on global politics so the idea of realism that sates are the primary actors in the world is also questionable today. These groups control AI tools that effects international stability without direct involvement from government, so it may shows that power is no longer held by state. Many AI systems works like a "Black box" even expert are not eligible to predict that how they reached a decision. In this situation where such powerful tool are in the hands of private companies, power is no longer just belongs to state. This situation challenged the realism's core belief that states are the main and most powerful actors in world politics.

In sum, artificial intelligence is not eliminating realism but it shows how strategy is transforming, how ways of perception of threats are changing and who are the key players of international politics are now. This highlights the need to revisit the traditional realist theory to better account for power in digital age.

AI, Strategic Behavior, and Realist Logic

Realist Assumptions in the Traditional Strategic Landscape

For a long time international relations revolve around issues of territory, strengthening the armies and making alliances. But today some lines of codes becomes the center of global power politics and international relations. Abilities of AI in data processing, advisory response and autonomous weapon system is challenging the core assumptions of realism and plays an important role in reshaping the strategies of states and the ways they compete in the world. Now only size of armies and the range of missiles is not enough to determine the power of a state it is also determine by the data processing speed of intelligent machines and machine learning models.

According to realism in anarchic international system the main goal of state is survival, power maximization and strategies to counter the rivals, and in traditional ways these goals are achieved by military strength, geopolitical advantages and diplomatic skills. But the emergence of advanced technologies like AI and cyber security transforms the strategic landscape.

AI as a Strategic Tool of Power

AI capabilities of autonomous decision making and defence system, intelligence analysis with algorithms and real time data processing at high speed enabled states to take actions faster and exerts influence on enemies without direct military confrontation. In this situation a critical question arises: does these advanced technologies strengthen the logic and assumptions of realism and provides an affective tools to maximize power or does it challenges the core assumptions of realism and make it necessary to reframe the traditional structure with theoretical adaptation.

Data processing abilities provides advantage to policy makers for the prediction of intentions of rivals. It also reduce the uncertainty they can plan there moves carefully. Much like nuclear arms race of the past today technological advancement

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specially in AI and cybersecurity becomes an important tool of domination for countries. For example competition between china and US shows how much it is important to become dominating technologically to make global influence. From realist perspective AI becomes a powerful tool, advanced technologies like autonomous weapons, AI-guided missiles and advanced cyber threat alert systems enables a country to stop threats in a new way before engaging in physical battles.

Artificial intelligence is challenging the assumption of realism that state is the primary actor in the world. Private tech companies and cyber collectives that control cutting edge technologies becomes the center of power and by using these advanced technological capabilities they wanted to rule over world. They can easily shape public opinions and make strategic influence which diffuses power away from state.

Rationality and Autonomous Decision-Making

Second assumption of realism is that states are rational actors and they works to protect their national interest. However intelligent machines are trained on specific datasets and make decisions according to patterns beyond the continuous guidance of humans. Like in military settings autonomous weapons are used that make decisions with machine speed and sometime they make such decisions that are not approved by any human leaders due to the unethical nature of these decisions. While unlike machines, humans can make decisions with critical judgement capabilities in unexpected situation. In unexpected situations machines can response in a ways that makes situation more dangerous and indefensible further it destabilize the deterrence and order upon which realism relies.

Gray Zone Tactics and Strategic Ambiguity

Due to AI countries use "gray zone" tactics such as cyber espionage, coordinating disinformation and infrastructure disruption, these activities are aggressive but stop short to open war (Chertoff et , al., 2019). Through cyber spying countries steal confidential information from the systems of others, spread misleading information and make wrong propaganda to confuse people, and without firing a single bullet they make chose by disrupting electricity grids, water system and transport. These cyber activities easily blurs the line between peace and full scale war. For example my harming the power grids of a country by using AI technology cause strategic loss equivalent to conventional attack. In such situation it is difficult and mostly impossible to identify the attacker it just like fighting in a shadow which complicate the real cause-effect reasoning assumed by realist theory.

In the light of realism's core assumptions, AI presents both strengths and weaknesses for this theory. Artificial intelligence enhanced the capabilities of state for self defence, it can provide a new way to countries to ensure their protection and compete with other nations. Yet it also challenges the core ideas of realism like state centric power, rational decision making system and clarity of threat perception. Now only governments are no longer the center of power AI companies also plays an important role. Decision making capabilities of intelligent machines makes it difficult for humans to understand that decisions. It can be used for "gray zone" actions like cyber espionage and spread of misinformation which make it difficult for countries to predict the threats and actions of other countries.

Overall AI both challenges and reinforced realistic logic's. It can make states more powerful and secure. But it can also changes the working way of power. This dual nature of artificial intelligence suggests that realism is still useful but it needs to adopt the realities of digital world where algorithms and cyber security is as important as armies, tanks and borders.

Conclusion

This research has critically examines the core assumptions of realism in the light of profound

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transformation of AI and accessed how it reshapes the contemporary international relations. Core assumptions of classical realism like power politics, survival and inevitable conflicts of anarchic world, has served long as a central framework of understanding international relations. Many of its insights still holds explanatory value. For example technological rivalry between china and US shows that struggle for dominance still remains relevant, but AI changed their domain. Power accumulation through AI Driven military tools, cyber capabilities and intelligence systems gives a new way to states through they can deter advisories and pursue their interests.

On the other hand, AI exposes the weaknesses of realist assumption that states are the primary and rational actor. Rise of AI tech companies, cyber groups and transnational networks make them significant influenced entities in the world politics. The control of these actors on AI tools plays an important role on diffusing authority from government through manipulation of infrastructure. Similarly, the rationality and rational behavior of state that is defined by realism is also complected by autonomous decision making capabilities of Artificial Intelligence. Intelligent machines trained on data, without guidance of humans and this can make unpredictable or ethically unacceptable choices specially in unfamiliar situations. Such outcomes weaken the practicalities of realism that are essential for deterrence and stability.

Furthermore, due to the rise of "gray zone tactics" like cyber espionage, spread of disinformation and infrastructure disruption, blurs the line between peace and conflict.Unlike traditional wars where enemies are clearly visible, conflicts in digital age often involves hidden actors, invisible attacks and ambiguous intentions. These activities creates an environment of insecurity where states are uncertain about how to identify threat and response effectively over it.

Taken together, these developments in Artificial intelligence reinforce and undermine realistic logic's simultaneously. On one hand, states are becoming stronger due to advanced technologies intensifies strategic rivalries, aligning with Realism's traditional insights. On the other hand it challenges the assumptions of realism like state primacy,rationality and clarity of threat. Realism remains valuable, but it needs adjustment according to digital age where cyber activities, Algorithms and tech companies hold influence like armies, alliances and borders in past.

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