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Research Article

THE RACE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SUPREMACY

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ABSTRACT

This article describes AI strategies, which are the key to technological progress and the digital economy, have become the priority of state policies and how important it is in the race among superpowers on a global scale. It also analyzes emerging smart technologies affect international geopolitics.

KEYWORDS

National AI strategy, emerging technologies, "Super Smart Society", "AI for American Industry", "Made in China – 2025", Great Power Competition, "Jillin – 1".

INTRODUCTION

The development of artificial intelligence has already been defined as one of the most important tasks of state policy in developed countries. Conducting research in this field, creating technology based on it, and implementing it in practice have been accepted as a symbol and criterion of national competitiveness, security, and economic power in recent years and a number of leading countries have developed their own national artificial intelligence programs. This is especially evident in countries that claim global leadership. In the conditions of globalization, the superpowers, which are striving to achieve as many national interests as possible and to play a bigger role in global governance, aim to achieve a powerful economic and military superiority with the help of AI.

METHODS

In this article content, event and comparative analysis were used.

Results. AI is called "new electricity" (Merz, 2019, p.1). Discoveries in the field of artificial intelligence have led to new inventions, greatly increased the capabilities of scientists and engineers to create more powerful and productive machines, and the process is expected to change the geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape of

the world in an unprecedented way. Considering the power and the importance of emerging smart technologies and AI, governments are implementing strategic AI plans.

Some say that the United States was re-entering an era of great power competition, in which China and Russia "want to shape a world antithetical to U.S. values and interests" (Wong, 2019). Alaca found that one of the newest technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), has aided in the emergence of new identities for social beings as society transitions from analogue to digital, beginning with compound technology (Alaca, 2022, p.11). Horowitz et. al found that the impact of AI on nations' and corporations' capacity to amass wealth as well as its implications for the nature of work are what most clearly connect AI, the global economy, and economic power (Horowitz, et. al, 2018, p.14). AI technologies will be the drivers of future economic growth and national security and China is simply more determined to win (Allison & Schimdt, 2020, p.4).

National strategies regarding AI research & development. In 2017, Canada became the first country to develop a national artificial intelligence strategy and announced a $125 million investment in the field (Brandusescu, 2021, p.17). In 2018, Mexico was the first Latin American country that announced its national strategy for AI.

On October 15, 2017, a report entitled "Growing the Artificial Intelligence Industry in the UK" was published in Great Britain, in which it is written that AI can bring benefits to the British industry in the amount of $814 billion by 2035 (Laužikas & Miliūtė, 2020, p.564). In Japan, the 2016 "Super Smart Society" future plan was announced, and it envisages the development of the information technology, AI and robotics industries (Febriansyah et al., 2020, p.1560). President Macron signed France`s national AI plan in 2018.

The process is growing fast in Global South as well. A number of Asian countries are developing plans to implement the achievements of AI at the national level. In 2018, India's NITI think tank released a preliminary document exploring priorities for India's national AI strategy. Japan announced its national AI strategy in March 2017, while South Korea developed its own five-year AI research and development program this year. Also, the industry is developing at different stages in a number of Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. In 2017, the UAE became the first country in the Middle East to announce its AI strategy. Priority tasks and strategic plans for the development of the industry in Russia were determined this year. In Africa, Kenya and Tunisia are considered to be the first African countries in this field.

AI race between the US and China. Currently, AI race forms the basis of the Great Power Competition between the US and China and the US maintains its leadership in this field, but the closeness of China, which is chasing after it, can be compared to hearing the heavy breathing of two sprinters in a long-distance race. According to many researchers, these two superpowers have entered an era of strategic competition, and the attitude towards China in the US has worsened in recent years. The competition between these two superpowers is taking place in political, economic, and security issues, as well as, of course, in science and technology.

In October 2016, the US National Science and Technology Consulate published its report "Preparing for the Future of Artificial Intelligence". The main task of the "National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan", which was announced this year, is to effectively establish cooperation between emerging AI technologies and humans. In 2019, the updated version of this program is a

continuation of the US interest in the field. In 2018, the White House hosted a summit called "AI for American Industry" (Tobin et al., 2019, p.294).

At the beginning of 2021, the D. Trump administration announced its annual fiscal reports and plans. It was determined that $800 million will be directed to the armament program based on accelerated AI (Klare, 2020, p.28). According to it, it was determined to manufacture and deploy unmanned aircraft and land military equipment based on AI. Despite this, a number of pronouncements from the US elite began to emerge regarding the necessity to take extreme actions against China's quickly advancing AI strategy, or else the US would lose its current global leadership position to China (Zhang et al., 2021). In one of his first interviews as a US President, Joe Biden spoke about relations with China and said that these relations will be at an unprecedented level of competition (Demetri, 2021).

China unveiled its official program "Made in China - 2025" in May 2015. The distinction between this project and earlier ones was that it should encompass all aspects of production. The project is massive, and it prioritizes competitiveness, innovation, technology, quality, and green ecology. This initiative was inspired by Germany's "Industrie 4", "Advanced Manufacturing Plan" of the USA, and France's "New Industrial France"(Ray et al., 2016, p.25). Made in China-2025 is a 10-year program with several aims that was implemented in 2015.

According to the program:

- Production quality, innovation, and worker productivity;
- ownership of the latest new generation technologies;
- reduction of energy and resource consumption;

- establishment of enterprises and industrial hubs capable of global competition are designated as important directions.

The development of the following ten sectors identified as priorities:

1) New generation information technologies;
2) New energy-powered and energy-saving vehicles;
3) High-quality computerized machines and robotics;
4) Energy equipment;
5) Space exploration;
6) Agro-industrial machines;
7) Improved marine equipment and ships;
8) New materials.
9) A better train system;
10) Biopharmaceuticals and cutting-edge medical equipment.

In 2016, the AI victory in the match between AlphaGo and Lee Sedol served as a demonstration of AI power for China. China established its "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" this year. China's goal in this effort is to be the world leader in artificial intelligence in all aspects by 2030. The initiative aims to achieve a globally advanced level of artificial intelligence by 2020, while also directing AI manufacturing in China and drawing specialists from around the world.

Although China did not formally declared a Great Power Competition, the mega-projects already announced by China will challenge the leadership positions held by the US today, and the race continues in the fields of scientific progress and economic achievement. China invested 15 billion yuan in the AI business in 2017, a 50 percent increase over the previous year (Wang & Chen, 2018, p.247). According to late-2017 sources, China invested more in AI-based businesses than their American counterparts for the

first time in 2017. The quantity of these funds was expected to reach 160 billion yuan by 2020, with an annual increase of 26.2 percent.

China has planned 3 strategic technologies as its priority in this Great Power Race. These are space exploration, artificial intelligence and quantum computing and communication technologies. China announced the "New Generation of Artificial Intelligence 2022 Program" of smart satellites that operate on the basis of AI and can avoid space debris. By 2025, China also plans to implement the so-called "Jilin-1" constellation project, according to which a system of 130 AI-powered satellites will be built, which means being able to compete with the space capabilities of the United States. It is planned to spend 375 million dollars on the project, and 70 satellites have already been launched into Earth orbit (Namrata, 2023).

Currently, the United States has already imposed sanctions on a number of Chinese AI companies, and in turn, China banned importing AI technology from the United States (Fabian, 2020).

Before these ongoing coldness and economic restrictions, the largest investment in AI systems in China was funded by American Wall Street investors. For example, the investments directed to the big Chinese companies Baidu, Tencent, Alibaba and ByteDance, the founder of the famous "TikTok" mobile application, were Wall Street money. In turn, these Chinese tech giants have poured huge sums of money into AI companies and startups in China (Perskaya et.al, 2020, p.20).

When it comes to the regulation and development of digital technology, the United States depends on the market economy, whereas China leans on the state's totalitarian approach. The US model envisions stable market confidence and supports the state's minimal involvement in this field. Digital technologies, according to Washington, are tools for economic prosperity, political independence, and, eventually, societal reform and progress. The US model of AI development envisions progress through an optimistic approach to technology, creativity, and the pursuit of technical progress. Many from American national security community believe that China cannot be more than "near-pear competitor" (Allison & Shmidt, 2020, p.1).

During the election campaigns, Joe Biden cited a number of flaws in Trump's China policy. There was a lot of effort to ban TikTok and Huawei, costly economic sanctions that worked against the US, and a number of home and foreign policy failures in the context of the worldwide pandemic. During the campaign, President Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, stated that it would be more helpful to accelerate economic expansion of the US rather than try to slow down China`s economy. (Sanger & Crowley, 2021, p.3).

Another side of the issue is that China is a country with a population of 1.41 million and has the largest number of people using smart technologies in the world, with more than 800 million people using smartphones. China is the population that uses voice assistants and artificial intelligence the most. China has 1.4 million skilled engineers, which is 6 times more than the number of engineers in the United States, and at least one third of these workers belong to the field of artificial intelligence (Chou, 2023).

DISCUSSION

It is becoming increasingly clear that the "Great Power Competition" that began under President Trump will continue in the coming years and will continue in AI, 5G technologies, the status of the world's largest

economy, and other areas. China's geopolitical goals, its policies with Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the threat to Japan's peace due to its military exercises in the South China Sea led to further deterioration of relations and a loss of mutual trust with the US. It is clear that relations between these two countries will remain the priority direction of state policy even during the next governments of the USA. And the Chinese authorities are continuing without deviating from the goal of achieving clearly defined goals in certain years. Also, against the backdrop of the fact that China's current policy is undermining the political superiority of the US-led collective West, China wants to share with it a number of opportunities that the US possesses today. The efforts of China, which strives for independence in international currency and global transactions, as well as in bilateral relations (Demarais, 2022, p.51), are a practical confirmation of these ideas .

In the future, it is inevitable that artificial intelligence will be the key to the digital economy, and the digital economy will be a symbol of power. Who will prevail in this regard is a matter of time.

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