

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A TOOL FOR PEACE OR A WEAPON OF INFORMATION?

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ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming a central strategic factor in contemporary international relations, influencing both cooperation mechanisms and the dynamics of hybrid conflicts. This article analyzes the dual role of AI—as a conflict prevention tool and an information weapon—based on the hypothesis that algorithmic technologies constitute a new form of geopolitical power, capable of offering actors who control digital infrastructures significant advantages in shaping the global information environment. The analysis of the European Union highlights the paradox between the ambition to act as a normative power in the ethical governance of AI and the persistent informational vulnerability in the global competition for technological supremacy. This study introduces the concept of algorithmic diplomacy, which describes the emerging interaction between human decision-makers and autonomous systems in international relations. The methodology used is based on a qualitative and interpretative approach, applying documentary and comparative analysis methods, using official documents, academic reference works, and public materials relevant to understanding the uses of AI in the diplomatic and security fields. This approach allows for the identification of the structural mechanisms through which AI is integrated into diplomatic processes, from early warning systems and predictive tools used in preventive diplomacy to advanced capabilities for crisis management optimisation, linguistic analysis, and decision support. The results indicate that the European Union is developing a distinct model of "normative algorithmic diplomacy", based on the AI Act, institutional structures dedicated to democratic resilience, and mechanisms to counter automated disinformation [12].

Keywords: algorithmic power, artificial intelligence, information warfare, normative AI governance, AI for peacebuilding

INTRODUCTION

The accelerated transformations generated by new digital technologies have substantially changed the architecture of international relations, influencing how states communicate, negotiate, and project their influence in the global environment. In this context, artificial intelligence has become the central element of structural change, surpassing its status as a technological tool and taking on the role of a mediator of diplomatic interaction. While the early stages of digital diplomacy sought to expand the presence of states in the online space and streamline public communication, current developments involve the integration of algorithms into analysis and decision-making processes. This has given rise to what the recent literature describes as "algorithmic diplomacy" [1]: a new operational model in which human rationality is complemented, assisted, and sometimes reorganised by automated mechanisms. This technological evolution has generated an international context dominated by two simultaneous trends. On the one hand, artificial intelligence