



Analysis and Examination of the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Strategic Depth of Countries

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Abstract

Precise policymaking and the adoption of a comprehensive and targeted strategy in the realm of foreign policy are among the fundamental needs of nations. Countries, based on their capacity to exert power, are inclined to expand their sphere of influence and enhance their role in their surrounding regions, aiming to impact them significantly. It can be argued that the scope of this influence has now extended beyond purely military domains and encompasses a wide range of components that shape the concept of strategic depth. Artificial intelligence (AI), as one of the foundational developments of the current era, holds significant potential to bring about fundamental changes in all aspects of human life. In the realm of politics and national security, AI, by offering new capabilities across various domains, has transformed the traditional definition of power and turned strategic depth into a multidimensional concept. This research, conducted using a mixed-method approach (descriptive and analytical, with documentary and statistical study methods), first identifies and ranks the components of strategic depth. The findings suggest that AI impacts strategic depth by improving information analysis and event prediction, enhancing strategic decision-making, strengthening public diplomacy, improving cybersecurity, and fostering international cooperation.

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Introduction:

The concept of strategic depth is a fundamental issue that significantly influences a nation's power, geopolitical standing, and ultimate destiny. In today's world, characterized by intense competition and interaction among political and economic actors striving to secure and advance their national interests, establish security, capitalize on opportunities, and improve welfare, the need for precise policymaking and the adoption of comprehensive and targeted foreign policy strategies is paramount.

The strategies of major global powers in geopolitical regions are contingent upon various factors. These powers seek stability and the maintenance of superiority across the globe through diverse means. In international relations, countries aspire to expand their sphere of influence and increase their role in their surrounding regions based on their capacity to exert power.

Among these considerations, powerful nations recognize the deepening of space and strategic points in their surrounding areas as a crucial requirement for formulating security models grounded in strategic factors. This is discussed under the rubric of strategic depth in the literature of international relations, geopolitics, strategic studies, and military affairs. While the term has a technical military meaning, in a broader sense, it also reflects the clarity and profundity of strategic thinking.

Furthermore, the importance of presence and influence beyond national borders and the adoption of a policy to deepen strategic depth are now considered vital strategies for governments to meet their national security, strategic, political, and economic needs. Strategic depth is an issue whose effects may not be immediately apparent; as Friedman notes, strategic depth is crucial in the long run.

Overall, attention to strategic depth is a critical matter for any nation. However, this raises the question of its precise characteristics and components. Moreover, how does the strategic depth of nations relate to artificial intelligence? This research examines the impact of artificial intelligence, as the primary driver of technological transformations in the 21st century that challenges the traditional concept of power, on the strategic depth of countries. On one hand, AI offers unprecedented opportunities to enhance capabilities and improve governmental performance across various domains. On the other hand, this technology poses significant threats to national security and challenges the conventional understanding of power. This introduction leads us to the central question: what are the opportunities and threats to the strategic depth of nations in the age of artificial intelligence?

Methodology:

This research is considered a theoretical study in terms of its nature. It was conducted using a mixed-methods approach. The relevant data were collected through documentary and library resources, as well as online databases. Subsequently, the identified components and dimensions were submitted to expert opinion, and the most significant components were identified. Ultimately, it was determined that one of the most critical components of a nation's strategic depth is its scientific and technological power. Following this, the research focused on artificial intelligence as a manifestation of knowledge and technological power, and its impact on the strategic depth of nations was examined.

Result and discussion:

This research introduces a novel definition of strategic depth: a geographical space that, through the control of processes and the processing of existing capacities, guarantees the survival and security of a nation's vital material and spiritual values. Subsequently, fourteen significant and influential components of strategic depth were identified. Expert evaluation indicated that the highest levels of impact on a nation's strategic depth were attributed to scientific and technological power (4.79), geographical location (4.58), transit position (4.52), and geopolitical position (4.48). The lowest levels of impact were associated with religion and ideology (3.85) and art and artistic capacities (3.91). Therefore, academic experts identified scientific, technological, and innovative power as the most influential component in strengthening a nation's strategic depth, reflecting the increasing global importance of knowledge and technology, which allows leading countries to expand their international influence.

Furthermore, the emergence of technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), is significantly impacting strategic depth. AI's ability to process big data and extract complex patterns is fundamentally transforming the perception, management, and exploitation of geographical space. Directly, it enhances environmental monitoring, disaster prediction, and resource optimization. Indirectly, autonomous navigation and smart cities reduce traditional spatial dependence. In the realm of control of processes and processing of national capacities, AI strengthens strategic depth by increasing accuracy and flexibility in resource and threat management. It also enables the identification of latent resources and the creation of new strategic capacities in the digital space, reducing sole reliance on geography and natural resources. Regarding survival and security of vital values, AI

improves threat prediction and national resilience by analyzing vast amounts of data, extending national security to cyberspace, and bolstering economic and spiritual security. Consequently, a nation's capacity to absorb and develop intelligent technologies is becoming a key component of sustainable strategic depth.

Conclusion:

In the modern era, strategic depth, particularly with the advent of new technologies like artificial intelligence, has transcended geographical boundaries and military capabilities. AI presents opportunities for increased power and influence while also posing threats such as autonomous weapons and cyber warfare. Other challenges like climate change and inequalities also impact strategic depth. To address these issues, nations must focus on comprehensive development, technological investment, strengthened diplomacy, cybersecurity, and international cooperation.

AI has also exacerbated the global digital divide and could lead to a new arms race. This technology is transforming geopolitical relations and creating new issues in diplomacy and human rights. AI is a dual-use technology with both opportunities and threats. Rapid adaptation and optimal utilization are crucial for nations, and international cooperation is essential to prevent its adverse consequences.

Keywords: Strategic depth, geopolitics, artificial intelligence. National Power, Precise Policymaking

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