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Artificial Intelligence and Diplomacy in the 21st Century: The African Perspective

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Annotation: The internet revolution has undoubtedly changed how humans go about living their lives. One sector that has embraced the age of the internet is the field of diplomacy. Researchers and practitioners have taken a keen interest in developing and finding new ways to enhance their interactions with both the public and other diplomatic missions, leading to the creation of digital diplomacy. It is important to address this recent phenomenon since it has attracted a great deal of interest, controversy, and speculation. This paper aims to initially trace and analyse the evolution of the term and then focus on the increasing chatter about the employment of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in the determination of foreign policy and its implementation. The paper is anchored on sociotechnical theory. A qualitative research design was employed for the study. Academic literature, opinion pieces, and newspaper publications were used as secondary sources in this investigation. The paper argues that although the internet has created positive tools for diplomats and statesmen to engage in public diplomacy, there is unnecessary guesswork over the use of AI in diplomacy in Africa continent. Also, the use of artificial intelligence in diplomacy plays several roles in state recognition, which make it an effective instrument for fostering ties between governments that have just been founded in Africa continent and those that have been around for a long time. AI enhances the practice of diplomacy in the 21st century. The revolution in the digital world has changed the trajectory of diplomacy. It has bridged the problems of time and space. It gives insight to diplomats on various event beyond their imagination. Based on the major findings, the paper recommended among others, diplomats should be trained on the use of technology in the art of diplomacy. This could be done through seminars and conferences. This would help diplomats in meeting the challenges of the 21st century diplomacy. A specialized fund should be provided for diplomats mostly from Africa continent. This would assist them in adopting the latest state-of-the-art facilities in diplomatic activities like their counterparts in the western world.

Keywords: Technology, Digital, Foreign Policy, Multilateral and Diplomats.

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INTRODUCTION

Diplomacy is a process involving players (diplomats, often representing a state) that live within a system (international relations) and participate in private and public communication to accomplish their aims peacefully (Stephen, 2017). Traditionally, diplomats working in embassies and consulates of their respective countries in a host country try to perform a variety of functions, such as finding a common ground to improve relations between the two countries through dialogue, gathering strategic information and relaying it to their home governments, and engaging in public diplomacy by promoting their host country's culture and heritage in order to create a favourable image in the minds of the citizens of the host country. Diplomats using multilateral diplomacy at international institutions also employ similar strategies when negotiating for shared interests. Before the ICT revolution, states interacted with one another through traditional diplomacy, which is now increasingly digitalized.

Digital diplomacy refers to the use of the internet and cutting-edge technologies to supplement established methods of conducting interstate diplomacy. The phrase originally referred to a strategy used by diplomats to communicate openly and directly with the public through social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook. The term has attracted significantly more attention from both governments and researchers since the development of artificial intelligence and related cyber capabilities. The Nazi Party adoption of FM radio to broadcast Hitler's speeches live to nations as far away as Uruguay in order to spread Nazi propaganda outside of Germany is the first instance of digital diplomacy that is known to have taken place (Vaughan, 2008). The development of more cutting-edge technology that supports dialogue rather than a monologue is what distinguishes modern digital diplomacy from Hitler's era. The use of social media websites for diplomatic purposes dates back to Hilary Clinton's time as Secretary of State under the Obama administration. She referred to these platforms as "21st-century statecraft platforms" because they would "reach beyond traditional government-to-government relations and engage directly with people around the world" (Bjola, & Holmes, 2015). The term "Twiplomacy" which stands for "Twitter plus diplomacy," was created as a result of the success of this experiment, which inspired leaders and state department equivalents from all over the world to use social media platforms to manage their diplomatic initiatives. Adopting strategies that tied digitalization and public diplomacy together was crucial for removing the barriers separating the elite bureaucracy and the general public. One of the most famous Twiplomacy cases is that of William Hague, the foreign secretary of the UK, who launched the "Meet the Foreign Secretary" campaign, which allowed people to voice their opinions on various international issues in exchange for the chance to have dinner with a few chosen people (Sandre, 2013). Twiplomacy has also caused historical positions to soften and helped to loosen restrictions on international relations; one illustration of this is when the American Department of State began to "follow" its Cuban counterpart on Twitter, and the latter did the same.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is crucial for developing nations like Africa as well as developed nations. Although, the African continent has seen the implementation of a number of cutting-edge AI applications, more can be done to ensure that everyone has access to information and knowledge via AI. We are currently going through an unprecedented wave of technological innovation that is influencing the development of AI, despite the fact that there has previously been a lot of anticipation for AI development, followed by a lot of disappointment. Artificial intelligence (AI) is *the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines*, especially computer systems (Burns, 2018). The emergence of digitised data in the global economy is one of the two main factors causing this growth. Africa is already a significant player in the development of AI systems, which calls for the use of the continent's natural resources,

Such as: labour force, and skill set. Using traditional diplomatic methods, African countries have been negotiating better export trading terms for the last ten years. However, the new framework for global trade

is changing the very nature of diplomacy. Modern approaches that are influenced by a nation's level of scientific and technological proficiency are replacing conventional approaches based on the concept of sovereign equity. This can show up in one of two ways. First, the ability of African countries to exert more influence on the world stage will depend on the strength of their economies, which is correlated with their ability to effectively harness technological innovation for global competitiveness. The AI Summit, which is sponsored by major international corporations like Intel, Salesforce, Amazon, and IBM, as well as the South Africa Summit of Singularity University, are just a few of the technology hubs, research organisations, and forums that have assisted South Africa in becoming the continent's leader in the adoption of AI. In South Africa, more than a hundred companies are integrating AI into their daily operations or developing innovative new products. There is need for a greater level of international technical cooperation in order to meet Africa's basic needs for adequate nutrition and healthcare. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to critically analyse the relationship between Artificial Intelligence and Diplomacy in the 21st Century taking into consideration; the African Perspective. This is in line with the fact that Africa is fast developing and adopting the technologies of the 21st century, its foreign diplomacy however may not have taken any deep roots in AI yet but that is why this paperwork will take a cursory look at the possibilities of entrenchment of AI in Africa's diplomacy.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is intelligence expressed by machines, as opposed to natural intelligence displayed by humans and animals. Russell and Norvig (2003) define "intelligent agents" as any system that can detect its surroundings and take actions that increase its chances of success. Previously, the term "artificial intelligence" was used to robots that mimic and display "human" cognitive abilities associated with the human mind, such as "learning" and "problem-solving." Leading AI researchers have now rejected this paradigm; instead, they explain AI in terms of rationality and rational behaviour, which does not limit how intelligence may be depicted (Russell & Norvig 2003).

Advanced web search engines (like Google), recommendation systems (like YouTube, Amazon, and Netflix), understanding human speech (like Siri and Alexa), self-driving cars (like Tesla), automated decision-making, and competing at the highest levels in strategic game systems are all applications of artificial intelligence (such as chess and Go). The AI effect is a phenomenon in which formerly considered "intelligent" occupations are dropped from the AI concept as robots become more proficient (McCorduck, 2004). Optical character recognition, for example, although being a common technology, is often left off lists of artificially intelligent products (Ashok83, 2019).

Since its beginnings as a field of research in 1956, artificial intelligence has seen repeated waves of optimism (Crevier, 1993; Newquist, 1994), followed by disappointment and a decrease in financing (termed a "AI winter" by Crevier), and then new methods, achievements, and increasing investment (NRC 1999; Clark 2015b). Since its start, AI research has tried with and abandoned a huge array of approaches, including the modelling of human problem-solving, formal logic, enormous knowledge libraries, and the mimicking of animal behaviour.

In the first two decades of the twenty-first century, the field was dominated by sophisticated mathematical and statistical machine learning, and this method has shown to be highly helpful in assisting with the resolution of various difficult difficulties in business and academia (Clark 2015; Kurzweil 2005).

AI has a lot of different fields of study, and each one focuses on a different set of goals and methods. Traditional goals of AI research include being able to reason, represent knowledge, plan, learn, understand natural language, see, and move and control things (Poole et al., 1998). Long-term goals for

the field include being able to solve any problem or having universal intelligence (Pennachin & Goertzel, 2007). Artificial intelligence (AI) researchers have adapted and used a wide range of problem-solving methods, such as search and mathematical optimization, formal logic, artificial neural networks, and methods based on statistics, probability, and economics, to deal with these problems. AI also uses ideas from computer science, psychology, linguistics, and philosophy, among other fields.

The underlying presumption of the field is that human intelligence "can be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it" (McCarthy et al., 1995). This sparked philosophical discussions about the nature of the mind and the moral ramifications of creating intelligent artificial beings; these topics have long been the subject of myth, fiction, and philosophy (Newquist 1994). Since then, computer scientists and philosophers have argued that if artificial intelligence is not directed towards useful ends, it may end up posing an existential threat to humanity (Russell & Norvig, 2003).

The Concept of Diplomacy

Diplomacy is a well-known method of attempting to alter the actions and behaviours of other governments and peoples without resorting to war or violence. The manner European states were set up after the Renaissance led to the diplomatic practises we use today. Diplomacy used to be about managing formal, two-way interactions between governments. By the 20th century, however, European diplomatic practises had spread around the world, and the definition of diplomacy had grown to include summit meetings and other international conferences, parliamentary diplomacy, the international activities of supranational and subnational entities, unofficial diplomacy by nongovernmental elements, and the work of international civil servants.

Diplomacy comes from the ancient Greek word diploma, which means "folded in half" and -ma, which means "something." The name came to be used for papers that princes gave out as favours. This is because the folded paper gave the person who held it a privilege, usually a travel pass. Later, it was used for all important papers made by chancelleries, especially those that had agreements between sovereigns. Later, the word "diplomacy" came to mean "international relations," and the connection to written documents was lost (with the exception of diplomatic, which is the science of certifying old official documents). In the 18th century, a diplomat was a person who was authorised to negotiate on behalf of a state (French for "diplomat" or "diplomatist").

People often mix up foreign policy and diplomacy, but they are not the same thing. Foreign policy is determined by political leaders; diplomats, along with military and intelligence personnel, may advise them, but it is not the only tool at their disposal. Foreign policy sets objectives, recommends approaches, and specifies the broad strategies to be applied in achieving them. In addition to using diplomacy, it may also use secret agents, subversion, war, or other forms of violence to further its goals. In statecraft, diplomacy is the primary alternative to using force or dubious tactics; it is the means by which all of a nation's resources are put to use in the peaceful resolution of interstate disagreements. Even though it may be coercive (backed by the threat of using force or harsh punishment), it is clearly nonviolent. Its main instruments are dialogue and negotiation on a global scale, which are primarily carried out by authorised envoys (a term derived from the French envoyé, meaning "one who is sent") and other political figures. The majority of diplomacy is carried out in private, in contrast to foreign policy, which is typically announced in public. However, in modern international relations, both the fact that diplomacy is underway and its outcomes are almost always made public.

African Startups and the use of AI

Several scholars like: Namunwa (2022) and Gilbert (2020) wrote on African's readiness and the growth of AI in the continent.

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Kenya and Ethiopia in the East, Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa, South Africa in the South, and Egypt in the North are the leading African countries in artificial intelligence development. These are the nations where a significant number of IT firms have made their mark on the AI industry by seeking to tackle common problems using sophisticated technology. There are programmes aimed at overcoming the obstacles standing in the way of AI development in Africa, and Google recently opened the first AI research facility of its kind in the continent at Ghana in the year 2019, under the direction of Moustapha Cisse, a former Facebook researcher.

One of the phrases used by tech startups around the world most frequently is "artificial intelligence," along with the phrases "we're the Uber for," "disruptive," and "innovative." In fact, according to some industry insiders, AI is a "big, fat lie"—a meaningless buzzword and gimmick employed by startups to appear more advanced than they actually are. There is even a claim that deep learning, or machine learning's are more sophisticated cousin, is what most people mistake for AI. So, it can be difficult to identify startups that are actually driven by AI. However, we were able to identify four African startups that seem to be bringing artificial intelligence (AI) or one of its other "politically correct" iterations to Africa's health, finance, and education sectors.

South Africa's Aerobotics

In 2014, Benji Meltzer and James Paterson founded the Cape Town-based business Aerobotics. The startup uses machine learning to analyse maps and extract actionable data for such crops as wheat, citrus, and sugar cane. Its agricultural consulting services are used in South Africa, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Aerobotics participated in the London accelerator programme hosted by Startupbootcamp InsurTech. According to Kene Okafor (2021) South Africa startup Aerobotics raised 17,000,000 USD to scale it's Artificial intelligence platform for Agriculture this gave a big boost to Artificial Intelligence in South Africa.

FinChatBot (South Africa)

FinChatBot was introduced by Far Ventures in June of 2016. The firm develops chatbots for customer websites. In addition, it tracks industry trends to improve sales conversion rates, anticipate consumer demands, and provide business solutions. FinChatBox is headquartered in South Africa's Cape Town. According to Jackson 2020 FinChatBox raised 1,600,000 USD to expand from South Africa to Europe and West Africa their AI based fintech operations. This shows a progressive expansion in the use of AI in South Africa.

Tuteria (Nigeria)

This edtech firm was established in 2015, it links skilled instructors with students based on their location and budgetary constraints. Tuteria instructors must maintain a positive user rating in order to get additional customers and remuneration, and falling below a defined minimum level disqualifies them from teaching. Godwin Benson, the founder of the company, has a degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Lagos in Nigeria. According to Shapshak (2016)Tutoria was named as of the real solutions to real problems in Artificial Intelligence.

Affectiva (Egypt)

Rana El Kaliouby, a pioneer in emotion artificial intelligence and a former research scientist at MIT, is the founder of the company Affectiva, which was established in 2009. The "emotion recognition solutions" offered by Affectiva depend on the enormous database maintained by the firm in order to determine an individual's state of mind and reach conclusions based on facial expressions. According to reports, more than 1,400 different healthcare, automobile, and gaming firms employ the company's AI emotion technology. Since its beginning, the young company has succeeded in accumulating over USD 50 million

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in venture capital funding. Based on Korosec (2021) information on TechCrunch, Affectiva was acquired a for emotion- detection software for \$73.5 million to start up affective operations.

The storylines of the development of artificial intelligence (AI) are up for discussion and disagreement. However, it is safe to say that it will rank among the most important technologies of the twenty-first century. Speaking of data as the "new oil" is the new norm. But we will need powerful AI if we want to "refine" the enormous amounts of data we are currently collecting and make sense of it. There is no limit to how far-reaching the effects of the AI revolution will be. Value chains will be completely altered, labor markets will be upended, and those who possess this new technology will come to hold the majority of the economic power. Additionally, because AI is so ingrained in the connectivity of the Internet, it poses a global problem. Therefore, it is surprising that AI is hardly present in foreign policy, particularly in Africa.

The past ten years have seen significant progress in artificial intelligence (AI), which has sparked numerous discussions about its potential social, economic, and security effects. *However, little sustained attention has been paid to how AI impacts foreign relations or how the technology impacts the work of the nation's ministries, government officials, and policymakers. McCarthy, a prominent American computer scientist, coined the phrase "artificial intelligence" in 1956 and subsequently described it as "the science and engineering of constructing intelligent devices, such as intelligent computer programmes." The development of deep learning and neural networks in the late 1990s prompted a renewed interest in artificial intelligence over the technology's potential applicability to a variety of activities, including diplomacy.*

Theoretical Framework

The paper is anchored on sociotechnical theory. It is generally agreed that the sociotechnical theory (STT) first came into existence some time between the 1950s and the 1960s, and its origins may be traced back to the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations in London (Trist & Bamforth, 1951, cited in Onvinvechi, 2022). The concept behind the sociotechnical systems theory (STS) is that the structure and performance of diplomatic activities can be comprehended and made better if the social and technical features of the diplomatic missions are combined and seen as dependent parts of a sophisticated system. The STS theory establishes that change in a diplomatic practices is mainly focused on one area, which is why it fails. STS suggests that there are interdependencies present in a diplomatic activities and understanding them is the key to success in the art of diplomacy. Multiple subsystems create a sociotechnical system which is useful in the application of AI for effective diplomatic activities. These subsystems interact and ensure the success of diplomatic mission. The sociotechnical systems are grouped into two, the social and the technological system. The component of the social system are people (diplomats), infrastructure (diplomatic embassy), culture of the people, processes (how diplomatic activities are carried out), and goals of the diplomatic mission (as being spelt out by the government in power). The technology part in a STS involves software, hardware, (which are essential tools of AI) working together for the effectiveness of diplomatic mission. These parts alone do not make a STS a success. The human interaction, information systems, and diplomatic principles assist in realizing realizing the goal of the sociotech system. Thus, a successful integration of AI in diplomatic practices among Africa countries involves the understanding of the social environment and technology which are essential in human interactions.

Method of the Study

The study made use of qualitative research methods. This method, as used in the study, involves describing evidence which denotes the yet crawling embracement of AI by African diplomats and the possibilities of advancement in the use of AI in future projections. This helped to gain a clearer

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perspective of the present problem. The basic reason for its adoption was to understand Africa's position on the global approach towards the use of AI and how it is affecting her Diplomacy.

Thematic Analysis

Artificial Intelligence and Diplomacy

The fields of defence, intelligence, homeland security, diplomacy, surveillance, cybersecurity, information, and economic statecraft are just some of the areas that may benefit from artificial intelligence. Diplomacy, long regarded as the primary tool of international relations, is impacted by AI on three levels: it has become a subject of the action; it conditions diplomacy itself, and it prepares the environment in which it is practised.

"Artificial intelligence" (AI) has received much attention, "artificial intelligence". The public excitement may be overblown, but there is real scientific advancement behind it: the speed of computer processors continues to rise year after year, as does enhanced technology for in-memory processing and research into AI algorithm development. To summarise, it is now feasible to analyse more data quicker than it ever has been possible before, which has ramifications that are already visible in day-to-day life, such as face and voice recognition.

The art of diplomacy has been an integral aspect of the ongoing digital revolution for some time now. It is in the process of modifying its cultural references, operational techniques, practises, structures, and initiatives in order to face the difficulties and seize the possibilities that come along with it. As artificial intelligence becomes more pervasive in all spheres of life, it will unavoidably have an effect on diplomatic practises. The more artificial intelligence is interwoven into society, the more significant the influence will be on the environment in which diplomats work. The term "artificial intelligence" (AI) refers to a developing field that has become an instrument of power politics and an element of state diplomacy.

AI as a tool for diplomatic practice: *AI studies how technology may assist ambassadors with their diplomatic duties and daily routines. In times of crisis, AI systems might be of considerable aid to diplomats by supporting them in making sense of the situation (descriptive analytics) and recognising possible patterns (predictive analytics).*

AI as a topic for diplomatic negotiations: In the near future, AI will not be able to replace the judgement of seasoned diplomats since it is still prone to mistake. AI has the ability to make an essential contribution to the planning and conduct of diplomatic discussions as a supplementary instrument.

AI as a factor influencing the environment in which diplomacy is practised: As a factor impacting the environment in which diplomacy is practised, AI has the potential to be the defining technology of our time, capable of reshaping the international order's basis.

AI as a diplomatic topic: *AI is pertinent to a comprehensive policy framework that encompasses the economics, business, and security, as well as democracy, human rights, and ethics. Assisting diplomats and other foreign policy experts with internal and external text document analysis, speech analysis, content and framing input, detecting hate speech and preventing the spread of terrorism-related information on social media platforms.*

Revolutionising Diplomatic Dialogues through AI

The addition and organisation of a discourse must be based on the cognitive and analytic aspects made accessible to operators by the digital revolution, from Big Data to AI-based algorithms. This form of discussion enables a diplomat to better comprehend his interlocutors' history, cultures, attitudes, mindset, ambitions, and interests—that is, the residents of the region in which he represents his nation. In this

respect, it should not be forgotten that, according to the most current figures, more than three billion people everyday use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Qzone, Snapchat, and others.

It is the development of a diplomatic system that is forward-thinking. Numerous nations have urged for the establishment of organisations inside foreign ministries and embassies appropriate to these new tasks. The US State Department, for instance, established a Task Force on eDiplomacy in 2002, which subsequently evolved into the Office of eDiplomacy. A visit to the official State Department website reveals how sophisticated and crucial digital diplomacy has become for the United States. Additionally, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) maintains a distinct Office of Digital Diplomacy.

AI and Diplomacy in Africa continent

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations defines diplomacy as gathering information, communication, representation, negotiation, and promotion of friendly relations between or among countries of the world. The use of artificial intelligence presents Africa with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to improve its competitiveness. I have the potential to assist in resolving many of the economic challenges that Africa is now facing, including those pertaining to agriculture, health care in rural areas, and the translation of the over 2,000 languages spoken throughout the continent. When it comes to the development of artificial intelligence, Africa has a number of acknowledged obstacles, such as a lack of funding, a scarcity of specialised expertise, and a lack of access to the most recent worldwide research. African ingenuity and investments from multinational corporations such as IBM Research, Google, Microsoft, and Amazon, which have all developed artificial intelligence labs in Africa, are helping to overcome these hurdles one step at a time, although very slowly. Deep Learning Indaba (a Zulu word for gathering), which is fostering a community of AI researchers in Africa, and Zindi, a platform that challenges African data scientists to solve the continent's toughest challenges, are two examples of innovative forms of transcontinental collaboration that are gaining ground. Both of these initiatives are helping to build a community of AI researchers in Africa. This is bolstered by the recent "homecoming" of some African professionals in AI who have been educated elsewhere in the world. Zindi is a platform that encourages data scientists from African countries to find solutions to the continent's most difficult problems.

Yet, the most significant obstacle that Africa must overcome in order to implement AI is frequently disregarded. The continent's most successful businesses – its "national champions" – are not zealously advancing the cause of AI or widely deploying AI applications, which causes them to lag behind their competitors on a global scale. Those few companies who have made AI investments have had to import both expertise and technology, which has caused their expenses to be much higher than normal. In addition to that, these businesses only make minimal use of AI in their operations. Because they have a limited ability to negotiate with global digital giants and because they have not been successful thus far in cultivating local talent, African firms face the danger of becoming less competitive than their multinational competitors in their respective home markets.

According to the findings of recent studies, the interactions that take place between knowledge, technological innovation, and research have resulted in the emergence of a fresh viewpoint on productivity and competitiveness. Because international fitness is a component that helps define new interactions within the dynamics of the international system, the idea of core regions in center-periphery models (Ferro and Jensen-Butler 1984) may need to be revised. In other words, countries located on the periphery were able to interact with countries located in the central regions of the world beyond the traditional factors of competition, such as labour, commodities, and capital, because these countries constructed a new international fitness through the application of research, knowledge, and innovation. The conventional components of international power—economic, military, diplomatic, and political

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capacities—will provide new advantages to any nation that has the technological capabilities and the wisdom to wield them thanks to the advent of artificial intelligence (AI).

The research agenda for international relations has not given sufficient attention to the topic of science and technology (Fritsch 2011; Weiss 2015). In recent years, a body of writing known as "IR and AI literature" has arisen, but with some restrictions. Some people use a conceptual and hypothetical planning approach (Horowitz 2018; Johnson 2019), while others acknowledge the dearth of empirical evidence (Horowitz 2020). Other research looked at particular nations and the issues they face (Wright 2019), as well as military matters, strategic studies, conflict, and cyberspace (Johnson 2019; Sechser et al. 2019; Horowitz 2020). Nevertheless, the emphasis of these investigations was placed on certain power characteristics rather than the whole idea. In this work, we address this gap by analysing the modifications of the international system in Africa's diplomatic structure through empirical research. This was done in order to fill the aforementioned gap.

Within the realm of artificial intelligence, the most serious concerns at the time are seen to be those pertaining to international relations and global security. Even though noted physicist Stephen Hawking and technology entrepreneur Elon Musk predicted the danger of artificial intelligence and the end of the human race due to the development of AI, advancements in AI have put new topics on the international agenda, challenged geostrategic relations, served as a tool for diplomats and negotiators, and created new opportunities in addition to concerns about human rights. The art of diplomacy is analogous to playing a board game focused on strategy. Typically, one country will make a move, and the other countries will react to it; but, in a sense, the goal of every nation is to emerge victorious. When it comes to board games, AI is regarded to be among the best. The game of chess has been won by AI over human world champions at least once. For example, in the year 1997, the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue was able to beat the world chess champion, Gary Kasparov. Recently, an artificial intelligence programme that was built by Carnegie Mellon University in conjunction with Facebook AI was successful in defeating the top pros in the game of Texas hold'em poker, which is widely regarded as the most popular variation of poker in the world. The advancement of artificial intelligence technology is essential to the economy because of its ability to reorganise both winners and losers in the market.

The AI revolution is regarded to be more powerful than the industrial revolution since it has had an influence not only on the industries but also on the daily lives of individuals. This makes the AI revolution more powerful than the industrial revolution. It is a fact, however, that the Industrial Revolution had a significant influence on international relations and commerce, which led to a rise in economic output in western nations such as the United States and the United Kingdom.

During the time of the first industrial revolution, countries vied with one another for control of resources such as coal and oil. Electronics and microprocessors ushered in a significant wave of innovation in the 1970s and 1980s, coinciding with the rise of information technology (IT), which led to the development of the Internet, GPS, and other technologies. Since the 1950s, the hunt for artificial intelligence has gone through alternating stages of optimism and despondency. Because of the Covid-19, it wasn't until after the year 2000 that it was expected that AI will bring about other breakthroughs in the not-too-distant future. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is currently a hotly contested topic, and it is forecast to become one of the most important technologies of the 21st century. AI has the potential to impact the way that international relations are managed and to provide resources for the fields of diplomacy and foreign policy.

Threat of AI as a diplomatic tool.

The use of artificial intelligence poses a risk to the safety of international communities as well as to social, economic, and military endeavours. This indicates that governments, as the key players in a global

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society, need to reexamine their foreign policy, diplomacy, and international cooperation in light of the new problems offered by the malevolent use of AI in a variety of sectors, most notably global psychological security. This danger is an essential component of the new cold war, which is characterised by the competition to develop AI. The advent of new technical and economic forces is giving birth to the formation of a new international order, which in turn entails the emergence of new participants as well as new laws governing the conduct of international interactions. The harmful use of AI, on the other hand, presents new issues for governments as the key players in international relations. This is due to the creation of new ideas such as artificial diplomacy, data sovereignty, cybersecurity, and cyberwar, all of which are intertwined with AI. For instance, AI may lend a hand to diplomats in the process of data processing, but it cannot entirely replace the human element. Artificial intelligence is incapable of achieving a consensus and is blind to perception, intuition, and the taking of risks. Human diplomats have advantages over AI systems in terms of their ability to detect the undetectable, sense the unseen, and notice the unnoticed. At least for the foreseeable future.

It will take some time for research and development before artificial intelligence can be used effectively in African foreign policy. It is imperative that government and non-state actors carefully consider monitoring the advancements in artificial intelligence technology and marketplaces while keeping the humanitarian aims in mind. The United States of America, Russia, and China are among the world's most powerful nations, and they have already started to pursue AI policies that pit them against one another and other countries in a way that threatens to upset the existing global power structure. The absence of understanding about artificial intelligence poses a risk to nations who are still in the process of growing and may result in a technology gap, causing these nations to become even more reliant on those that control AI. Knowledge and skills about AI have to be disseminated all around the world and to the general populace in order to prevent an imbalance of power and polarisation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The artificial intelligence (AI) skills gap that exists inside a firm today will become a national competitiveness gulf tomorrow. If African businesses do not aggressively push the development of artificial intelligence (AI), then African countries will never be able to go ahead of their global competitors. The development of country-specific programmes has been beneficial to a number of other countries. By forging connections between their respective governments, businesses, and academic institutions, countries such as Canada, Israel, and Singapore have emerged as world leaders in artificial intelligence (AI). Africa is also capable. An approach like this would have two parts to it. To begin, the cultivation of an atmosphere conducive to the growth of AI. The expansion of any ecosystem may be hampered by too strict regulatory regimes, which is particularly problematic if the ecosystem wants to expand beyond national boundaries.

Second, Africa's corporate leaders have the ability to steer the development of AI policy if they collaborate with their respective national governments. For example, in 2018, the government of Kenya established an artificial intelligence and block chain taskforce comprised of members from local academic institutions, technological businesses, and industry. It published insightful research on how to take advantage of possibilities in block chain and AI to improve the efficiency of public sector procedures and services. In addition, it requested that the government invest in block chain and AI infrastructure and assist startups in these areas. In addition, the study requested that the government publish a report on how to use potential in block chain and AI to improve the efficiency of public sector procedures and services (Horowitz 2020).

On the other hand, the government of Nigeria, acting via the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), has issued a decree that directs all financial institutions to cease supporting cryptocurrency transactions and to cease

doing business with businesses that are involved in cryptocurrency. In addition, the statement ordered any and all banks and other financial institutions to cancel the accounts of any people or organisations who participated in this kind of transaction beginning in February of 2021. Because of this, there has been a large-scale exodus of intellectuals and other skilled professionals in this industry.

Egypt took the lead in 2019 in establishing the African Working Group on AI, which operates under the auspices of the African Union, with the goals of developing a unified AI strategy for the entire continent and establishing a joint capacity-building framework to address the skills gap that exists there.

Today, just forty percent of people living in Africa have access to the internet, but this number is eightyseven percent in Europe and ninety-five percent in North America. Businesses based in Africa have a significant part to play in resolving problems that arise from a lack of connection and access to data. Artificial intelligence can only serve to widen Africa's existing digital gap if the continent lacks access to reasonable data plans, dependable infrastructure, and technology. When African businesses collaborate with one another and with multinational corporations, they will be able to accomplish their goals more quickly. For example, in February 2020, Safaricom and Amazon Web Services (AWS) entered into a collaboration to provide AWS cloud services to Safaricom's East African clients. Safaricom was founded in 1997 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Kenyan state-owned utility, Telekom Kenya. As the first consulting partner in East Africa for Amazon Web Services (AWS), Safaricom, whose offerings include the M-Pesa mobile money system, joined forces with AWS.

Furthermore, the cultivation of talent will be essential to the achievement of success for Africa's AI ecosystem. There is an abundance of undeveloped talent on the continent: Africa has the youngest population on the globe, with sixty percent of its people being under the age of twenty-five. This makes Africa the continent with the fastest-growing population overall. Comparatively, the median age in the European Union is 44 years, whereas in Africa it is about 20 years. The continent's national champions may develop methods to educate their country's workforce in AI by forming relationships with educational institutions from across the world. For instance, Morocco's Mohamed VI Polytechnique University and OCP Group have collaborated with Ecole des Mines, Ecole Polytechnique, MIT, Columbia University, and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) to launch a number of artificial intelligence graduate and executive programmes, in addition to a new generation of coding schools in Benguerir and Khouribga. In addition to this, novel approaches to financing the growth of human capital will need to be devised, with a primary emphasis on R&D that helps to close the gap between the academic world and the corporate world.

By coordinating the ecosystem's incentives, African businesses have the ability to increase the likelihood that other players, such as international organisations, financial institutions, and national governments, would take part in the construction of the African AI ecosystem. While businesses may cherry-pick the initiatives they need, international organisations and development finance institutions will often prioritise projects that have the best return on investment (ROI) and those that contribute the most to socio-economic development. In addition, governments will work to improve the competitiveness of their countries by investing development money in AI-enablement, forging consortia, and establishing regulatory regimes. Since the majority of Africa's behemoths are controlled by their respective states, policymakers will also want to work to bolster the continent's public sector enterprises.

Companies in Africa will see significant expansion and growth as a result of the expansion of the AI infrastructure and the increase in the usage of apps. They will develop into a breeding place for talent, which will compel multi-national corporations to work with them in collaboration. It is expected that, over the course of time, the cost of creating AI will decline, which would enhance the innovation potential of African enterprises and provide them a boost in their ability to compete globally. Therefore, the issue

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that has to be asked is not whether artificial intelligence can become a driver for the growth of Africa; rather, the one that needs to be asked is how rapidly it can be rolled out by Africa's national champions.

The use of artificial intelligence in diplomacy will play several roles in state recognition, which will make it an effective instrument for fostering ties between governments that have just been founded and those that have been around for a long time. As a direct consequence of the proliferation of digital technologies, social media platforms have been elevated to a position of preeminence in the projection, diffusion, and reproduction of information in the arena of international diplomacy. After South Sudan's vote, diplomats from all around the globe took to social media to disseminate their remarks, make announcements about upcoming public appearances, and express words of congratulations on South Sudan's referendum and independence.

The application of AI in diplomacy, in particular in Africa, will have the following effects: a new or newly confirmed status in the relations between the states involved; joint or unilateral concerted action; the failure of negotiations; or the transfer of negotiations to a different temporal, geographical, or institutional framework. Should our efforts prove unsuccessful, we will be forced to resort to either military or non-military tactics of pressure. The purpose of diplomatic discussions, as outlined in Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, is to settle issues without resorting to coercive methods. Artificial intelligence (AI) solutions that assist in achieving national development objectives and contribute to wealthy and inclusive communities should be given high priority by the governments of African countries. On the African continent, governments are beginning to formulate policy responses to artificial intelligence (AI). Egypt, Mauritius, and Rwanda were the first African nations to publish national AI policies.

Summary of Major Findings

Based on the available data analysed the following findings were observed:

- 1. The use of AI enhances the practise of diplomacy in the 21st century. The revolution in the digital world has changed the trajectory of diplomacy. It has bridged the problems of time and space. It gives insight to diplomats on various event beyond their imagination.
- 2. AI influences the environment in which diplomacy is practiced. Therefore, diplomatic practises that happen within the environment respond to the social system through the adoption of technology.
- 3. AI assists diplomats and other foreign policy experts with internal and external text document and speech analyses, content and framing input, detecting hate speech and preventing the spread of terrorism-related information on social media platforms.
- 4. The use of artificial intelligence presents Africa with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to improve its competitiveness.
- 5. In the area of AI, Africa has a number of acknowledged obstacles, such as a lack of funding, a scarcity of specialised expertise, and a lack of access to the most recent worldwide research.
- 6. The use of artificial intelligence in diplomacy plays several roles in state recognition, which makes it an effective instrument for fostering ties between governments that have just been founded on the African continent and those that have been around for a long time.

Conclusion

Local African actors are becoming more active in AI innovation, capacity building, and knowledge creation. This is brought on by increased computational power and an increase in funding for AI as part of a more significant increase in funding for start-ups. Despite this growth, African businesses are finding it

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difficult to develop suitable and alluring use cases that investors will fund with a reasonable degree of certainty that they will make a profit. *However, foreign technology and AI firms continue to dominate the African market, which may not necessarily serve national development goals (such as those outlined in the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals).* Worse, they perpetuate the marginalisation and oppression of certain groups, especially women. African governments must prioritise the development of locally-based artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and competencies that may be leveraged to drive inclusive economic growth and social change. This focus requires AI policies that build upon national digital agendas and prioritise fair access to digital, data, and computational infrastructure.

In conclusion, as nations in the 21st century make additional strides in the change brought on by AI, it most certainly has the capacity to reconfigure the foundation upon which the existing global order is built. However, just like the industrial revolution and the information technology revolution, the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) brings with it a number of advantages and disadvantages, as well as the difficulties and complexities that come with replacing humans with robots in the field of international relations and diplomacy. AI is already having a significant impact on the world economy and on international relations, and it has the potential to radically transform the practise of diplomacy and international relations over the next several decades.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the major findings, the following recommendations were highlighted:

First, African businesses might jumpstart their usage of artificial intelligence (AI) by creating critical AI applications and implementing them on a large scale. If they did so, their competitiveness throughout the continent would increase, and they would be positioned to become important players in the African market. Second, and more importantly, African businesses have the ability to contribute to the development of an artificial intelligence ecosystem. This will allow for a reduction in the amount of money spent on application development, as well as a decrease in reliance on businesses based outside of Africa. The African artificial intelligence ecosystem has the potential to position itself as an attractive partner for international digital giants that are interested in entering the African market. In addition to the ability to develop applications at a low cost and to ensure their deployment at scale, the ecosystem also has the potential to develop applications. In order for this to take place, businesses based in Africa have three possible avenues of action.

Secondly, a blueprint to direct AI strategy by incorporating academic institutions, African institutions, and enterprises in the public sector should be developed across the African Continent.

Thirdly, for Africans to develop faith in AI systems, they will need improved methods to safeguard personal data. By establishing the standards that will govern how they gather, distribute, sell, store, and apply data, as well as by developing the necessary infrastructure, such as payment platforms, African businesses may lend a hand in the fight against the problems that are caused by a lack of data privacy. Ensure that data, infrastructure, and licences are all accessible.

Fourthly, there is a need for decisive and robust action on the development of AI among African countries. If African governments and private enterprises do not aggressively push the development of artificial intelligence (AI), then African countries will never be able to go ahead of their global competitors. African businesses should collaborate with one another on- one-hand and with multinational corporations on – the- other- hand in a double partnership, that way will be able to accomplish their goals more quickly given the pooled resources available from the collaboration, particularly the key funding from the multinational.

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Fifthly, the cultivation of talent will be essential to the achievement of success for Africa's AI ecosystem. The cultivation of talent will be essential to the achievement of success for Africa's AI ecosystem. There is an abundance of undeveloped talent on the continent: Africa has the youngest population on the globe, with sixty percent of its people being under the age of twenty-five. This makes Africa the continent with the fastest-growing population overall. As a result, if talented people are effectively mobilised in AI development, there will be a paradigm shift in AI development, allowing African States and enterprises to compete favourably with their counterparts.

Sixthly, specialized fund should be provided for diplomats, mostly from the African continent. This would assist them in adopting the latest state-of-the-art facilities in diplomatic activities like their counterparts in the western world.

Seventhly, there is a need to appoint diplomats with good knowledge of ICT. The world is on the pedestrian of a technological revolution. Therefore, a country's representative should have good knowledge of ICT and how it could be used to pursue the national interest of a state.

Eighthly, diplomats should be trained in the use of technology in the art of diplomacy. This could be done through seminars and conferences. This will help diplomats meet the challenges of 21st century diplomacy.

Ninthly, AI has revolutionised diplomatic dialogues, therefore, the addition and organisation of a discourse must be based on the cognitive and analytic aspects made accessible to operators by the digital revolution, from Big Data to AI-based algorithms. This form of discussion enables a diplomat to better comprehend his interlocutors' history, cultures, attitudes, mindset, ambitions, and interests—that is, the residents of the region in which he represents his nation.

Tenthly, there is a need for decisive and robust action on the development of AI among African countries. If African governments and private enterprises do not aggressively push the development of artificial intelligence (AI), then African countries will never be able to go ahead of their global competitors.

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