

Artificial Intelligence Revolution: Contemporary Trends and Implications for the Future of Warfare

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Abstract

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution has already begun, with major states integrating AI for a wide range of military applications, including decision making, Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS), and other defence-related systems. Major states like the US, China, and others plan to integrate AI for military applications entirely within the next decade. The US Third Offset Strategy (TOS) of 2014 and the 2021 US National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) report have linked AI with the future of the US global leadership. Similarly, China's 2017 Next Generation AI Development Plan envisions itself as the global AI leader by 2030 and labels AI as an essential strategic technology. This paper compares the AI-related progress of the US and China and examines the significance of AI for states like Russia, India, and some others. It predicts that the military adoption of AI would have several wide-ranging implications on the future of warfare and the global strategic environment.

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