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AI Diplomacy: Can Algorithms Help Humanity Resolve International Conflicts?

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Abstract: Artificial intelligence is becoming a fully-fledged tool of diplomacy. Algorithms warn of conflicts before they break out and simulate dozens of peace treaty scenarios in a matter of hours. But can machines trained on human data overcome our own biases? Is the world truly on the brink of a revolution in international relations.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, diplomacy, digital, technologies, politics, international relations, conflicts, modern age, networks, social media.

Introduction

In April 2023, an artificial intelligence algorithm issued an alarming forecast about an imminent escalation of the conflict in Sudan several months before UN analysts reached similar conclusions. The system analyzed satellite images of military equipment movements, a surge in aggressive rhetoric in local media, and changes in economic indicators data that human experts either overlooked or underestimated. Once the conflict began, it was too late to resort to forecasts [1].

This case became emblematic. Today, AI is no longer just a tool for processing information, but a fully-fledged participant in diplomatic processes. It models conflicts, proposes unconventional solutions, and even acts as a digital mediator. But can algorithms be trusted in matters where human lives are at stake? Will blind faith in the "objectivity" of machines lead to new disasters? And how will international politics change if virtual negotiators become the norm?

Methodology

Classical diplomacy has always been a high-stakes game, where one side's gain often meant the other's loss. For centuries, negotiators relied on intuition, personal experience, and sometimes outright bluffing. Decisions were, and still are, made under severe time and information constraints. In such a zero-sum game, the participants, by definition, have no common interests. Therefore, the outcome will always be negative for one party [2].

AI breaks these traditions. It doesn't tire, isn't susceptible to emotion, and can analyze thousands of scenarios in seconds. Research shows that this approach to solving real-world problems has potential. Human negotiators have too often postponed compromises, driven by stubbornness, false fears, or political ambitions. A 2022 study by George Mason University found that 62% of negotiation failures are due to time delays. AI is not prone to procrastination, but is guided by different considerations more reasonable and practical ones. In addition, AI can suggest an option that will leave both parties winning.

However, there are also counterexamples of AI's use in international conflict resolution. In February 2024, a consortium of scientists (including Stanford University and Northeastern University) tested language models (GPT-4, Claude 2.0, and others) on hypothetical international conflicts [3].

Although the experiment was conducted on artificial scenarios rather than historical data, it revealed AI's tendency to escalate tensions—for example, the algorithms often chose nuclear strikes as the "optimal" solution. This radical approach can be attributed to the challenges of AI technology's growth and development, but it is also true that this tool should still be used with great caution.

In 2025, Dr. Kemal Yildirim, Professor of Law and Governance at the European School of Law and Governance in Pristina, Kosovo, published an article in the journal Diplomat on how technology is already transforming international relations and detailed the history of the development of an algorithmic approach to diplomatic issues [4].

According to him, the key advantage of digital diplomacy is the ability to openly engage with the public in real time. By automating data analysis and certain types of consular activities, AI will soon transform the tools and methods used by diplomats. This and other publications highlight the relevance of AI technologies in modern politics.

Results and Discussion

During the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), Washington and Moscow exchanged written messages with a delay of hours, sometimes even days. Each side interpreted the other's words through the prism of its own fears. The world truly was on the brink of a nuclear crisis [5].

Today, diplomats have a powerful ally – AI, capable of:

instantly translating and analyzing the tone of diplomatic messages: systems recognize dozens of emotional nuances in official statements;

predicting the consequences of ultimatums with up to 90% accuracy (EU E-Diplomacy project);

modeling the economic effects of decisions or sanctions, taking into account millions of variables.

The danger is that AI systems don't always account for cultural nuances. For example, in 2024, the UN's CrisisNavigator algorithm was criticized for ignoring local specifics when predicting conflicts in Africa [6].

Modern AI systems work with layers of information that are inaccessible to human perception. One key source is the history of negotiations—algorithms study how countries responded to similar crises in the past. By analyzing thousands of documents—from the 1648 Peace of Westphalia to modern agreements—AI discovers subtle patterns in the behavior of the parties.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) uses the CrisisNavigator system, which analyzes satellite imagery, food price data, and social media activity to predict conflicts [7].

Such algorithms tracked, for example, the dynamics of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, recording ceasefire violations through satellite monitoring and reports of civilian casualties.

Equally important is remote sensing data. High-resolution satellite images from systems like NASA's Earth Observing System record troop movements and fortification construction with an accuracy of up to one meter. Concealing preparations for military action in the modern world is virtually impossible.

Information analysis is particularly valuable. Algorithms for monitoring social media and media reveal dangerous trends that could provoke violence. Early warning systems can detect a surge in hateful posts on social media, which often precipitate clashes [8].

Conclusion

Finland, renowned for its innovative approaches to public administration, has become a pioneer in AI diplomacy. In 2024, the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched an experimental chatbot that handles up to 40% of routine requests—from visa information to clarifications on sanctions policy.

The system, based on a Finnish language model, demonstrates a 92% accuracy rate, significantly reducing the workload of embassy staff. A key feature of the project is its hybrid model, in which complex questions are automatically forwarded to human diplomats [9].

Engineers are developing even more ambitious projects. For example, an advanced system with elements of computer vision and emotional intelligence that will act as a "digital ambassador."

The algorithm will analyze thousands of social media messages, identifying the sentiments of foreign audiences and tailoring official rhetoric to specific target groups. Messages generated by such a bot will presumably comply with all the rules of international diplomacy, eliminating the risk of human error.

In Russia, the issue of AI in diplomacy is also being discussed, at the highest levels. However, replacing humans with machines is out of the question—these tools must perform purely practical tasks [10].

Even the most advanced systems are not yet capable of replacing humans in key aspects of diplomacy. Algorithms can optimize processes, but only humans are responsible for peace and war. This is especially evident in situations requiring moral choices or understanding cultural context—areas where AI still shows serious limitations.

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