

Artificial Intelligence and its influence in Political Decisions

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Introduction

The origins of Artificial Intelligence (AI) date back to 1950 when, Alan Turing wrote a paper titled “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” where he asked the question, can machines think? He argued that if the machine could successfully pretend to be human to a knowledgeable observer then you certainly should consider it intelligent. *(McCarthy, 2004)*

John Mc Carthy known as the father of AI, elaborated a phrase “Study of Artificial Intelligence”. Defining AI as “The Science and Engineering of making intelligent machines”. *(Mc Carthy, 1955)*

There has been a growing interest in the last years in AI. When we speak about AI we speak among other things about machine learning as well as new ways to gather and process data in large amounts.

AI is being used in many different sectors of our daily life's. Many sustain that AI will continue to reshape societies in revolutionary ways. Sustaining that the interest in AI have gone from a technological and economical perspective to also its societal impact, very recently this sociological discussion has also lead to discuss

the effects of AI on politics mainly democratic politics and procedures. (*Thorsten, 2022*)

There is a clear relationship between artificial intelligence and democracy, Governments and politicians alike use technology. When we speak about technology we can say that Artificial Intelligence is one of the sectors that has grown and is growing the most. Many are of the opinion that AI regarding human rights can cause harm, because users and developers can become overconfident about the power of machines.

Artificial Intelligence can when misused be used to manipulate public opinion. It is public knowledge that by tricking algorithms of some social media platforms you can cause disinformation and propagation of incitement, violence and hatred, also by using bots and fake accounts. Analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence is a challenge for democracies.

Research question and Problem Space

The research question of the present short paper is: What influences has AI had in Political decisions? Sadly because of the length of the present work and little information due to it being a very recent subject, it's not the objective of the present research to solve the question but to reflect about: the relationship of AI with, democracy, government and political decisions, as well as reflect on the challenges that arise from this relationship.

Analysis: AI as a tool in Politics

In able to define our problem space it's important to know that before we speak about the influence of AI in political decisions, its important also to be aware of AI's impact on democracy, when we speak about this impact we are basically reefing to: AI and the democratic public sphere, the impact of AI on election campaigns

and automated decision-making systems in public services and the importance of their accountability. *(Thorsten, 2022)*

Modern technological advancements (internet, social networks, and computing technology) are not only part of our everyday life but are becoming part of our governments. Artificial intelligence is impossible to disregard it is set to transform society, the economy, and politics *(Efthymiou, 2020)*

But it's also important to mention the advantages that AI can have in politics. One scenario in which machine learning part of AI could become valuable in a government context is when there is a mass of data but not enough people to manage it or experts to analyze it. Another scenario would be routine processes that a machine can automate while improving over time. Through these applications, AI can reduce administrative burdens, help resolve resource allocation problems, and take on significantly complex tasks *(Mehr, 2019)*

In the chart below we can see different types of government problems that can be resolved with AI applications. From the chart we can conclude that AI is important in the service delivery. AI applications for citizen services could also reduce cost for governments. Deloitte estimates that automation of federal government employee tasks could save government between 96.7 million and 1.2 billion hours annually, with potential savings between \$3.3 billion and \$41.1 billion, respectively. *(Mehr-2019)*

Types of Government Problems Appropriate for AI Applications

Resource Allocation	• Administrative support is needed to speed up task completion • Inquiry response times are long due to insufficient support
Large Datasets	• Dataset is too large for employees to work with efficiently • Internal and external datasets can be combined to enhance outputs and insights • Data is highly structured with years of history
Experts Shortage	• Basic questions can be answered, freeing up time for experts • Niche issues can be learned to support experts in research
Predictable Scenario	• Situation is predictable based on historical data • Prediction will help with time-sensitive responses
Procedural	• Task is repetitive in nature • Inputs/outputs have binary answer
Diverse Data	• Data includes visual/spatial and auditory/linguistic information • Qualitative and quantitative data needs to be summarized regularly

*Mehr, 2019

I think one of the main questions that people will ask concerning AI Applications will be: is AI Trustworthy? to answer this I would like to refer to what was established by the European commission. Trustworthy AI has three components, which should be met throughout the system's entire life cycle: 1. it should be lawful, complying with all applicable laws and regulations; 2. it should be ethical, ensuring adherence to ethical principles and values; and 3. it should be robust, both from a technical and social perspective, since, even with good intentions, AI systems can cause unintentional harm. (*European Commission, High-Level expert group on Artificial Intelligence, 2019*)

Artificial Intelligence is better than humans at finding and enacting the best policies in certain areas concerning science, engineering and complex societal and macroeconomic issues. Some authors speak about an AI technocracy and identify five important objections to its benefits that they esteem should be solved first, and they are: People need full political participation in order to be satisfied People they will not deem a government in which they do not participate to be legitimate,

Computers should not make decisions affecting people's lives and wellbeing, AI is not transparent and thus not fully amenable to human control, Accountability regarding the consequences of political decisions must be clear, and it becomes less clear when AI makes decisions (*Skaug Saetra, 2020*)

The advent of social media and the industry's disregard for user privacy has simply made matters worse, often with the assistance of smart algorithms. The situation will likely get even worse as the "tech trusts" develop stronger and more pervasive AI. The "high levels of social control" that AI enables may herald a "coming competition between digital authoritarianism and liberal democracy. (*Manheim, Kaplan, 2019*)

Politicians have been studying people's perspectives and modifying their views to gain more supporters by employing AI techniques. Examples of this: Barack Obama's 2012 presidential campaign, Narendra Modi in 2014, Donald Trump in 2016. This is proof that AI is a powerful tool in politics. It is also important to mention another benefit that we can get from AI sustained by some authors: if implemented by independent organizations we can remove all the fake news and false agendas in just minutes, which considering the current reality would be one of the greatest benefits in the political sector. (*Kumawat, 2020*)

Conclusions

"Technology is indispensable to make modern democracy work, but it is not its natural ally." AI and democracy are not "natural allies:" it takes active design choices and much political will for AI to serve democratic purposes. Some authors sustain this and also add more questions to the equation in case AI evolves into non-human superior intelligence, giving examples like enhanced humans, cyborgs, uploaded brains, as well as advanced algorithms embedded into any manner of physical device. Would humans still exercise control? If so, would there

be democracies, or would some people or countries subjugate everybody else? Would it be appropriate to involve new intelligent entities in governance, and what do they have to be like for the answer to be affirmative? If humans are not in control, what will governance be like? Would humans even be involved? (Risse, 2021)

AI is not new to government. While its application has been mostly used in defense and intelligence, it has also been used to reduce tasks. Many sustain that AI given the ethical issues surrounding it and continuing developments in machine learning techniques, should not be tasked with making critical government decisions about citizens. Until machine learning techniques improve, AI should only be used for analysis and process improvement, not decision support, human oversight should remain prevalent. (Mehr-2019)

Freedom of expression should be equally protected online and offline. However, the role played by internet intermediaries online has from the beginning blurred the lines. Companies operating social media platforms have such control over access to information that they can shape public debate with little OR NO accountability. Considering this any decisions that these companies make can have huge implications for our democracies.

AI and its influence in democracy, Government and Political Decisions are all new discussions that sadly at the moment have very few literatures and even less solutions or answers to the problems that can arise from this relationship.

I think mainly we cannot responsibly analyze the influence of something we still can fully understand ourselves and it gets even more complicated that our understanding of technology and its evolution and influence in our society lack in some cases of our analysis the human component.

I personally believe that AI is not a bad thing in itself, it can be very positive as well as negative, it will all depend on the use we give it. And the regulatory frame work it will function in.

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