

# Geopolitical AI

Digital Humanism Summit  
on AI and Democratic Sustainability

3 July 2023

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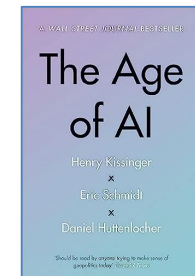
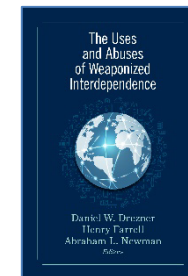
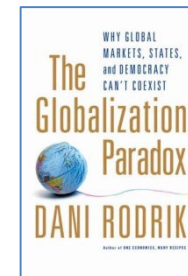
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# This contribution is about

- **Weaponization** of AI techno-social systems
- **Trilemma** of globalization – sovereignty – democracy

Focus is AI and democracy, context is geopolitics

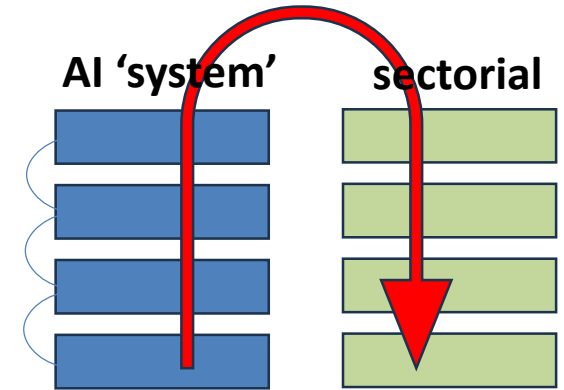
This is not a contribution about AI weapons!



# Weaponizing an AI ‘networked system’

“States with political authority over central economic nodes can weaponize networks to gather information or choke off economic and information flows, discover and exploit vulnerabilities, compel policy change, and deter unwanted actions.”

- Weaponize AI ‘networked systems’
  - Data, computing, algorithms, talent/people, governance, ...
  - AI for ‘cyber’, AI dual-use, influence, AI-enabled sectors
- To weaponize, technological and social structures must ‘fit’
- Panopticon and chokepoints in asymmetric structures
  - counter-terrorism, AI-censorship, sanctions, AI-export controls

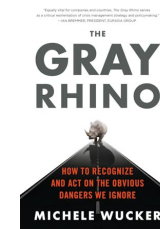


# Weaponization and Democracy?

- Hard weaponization is hard to put under democratic control
- Soft weaponization in the name of democracy ... and authoritarianism
- Non-state actors: a next Cambridge Analytica; big tech curating AI

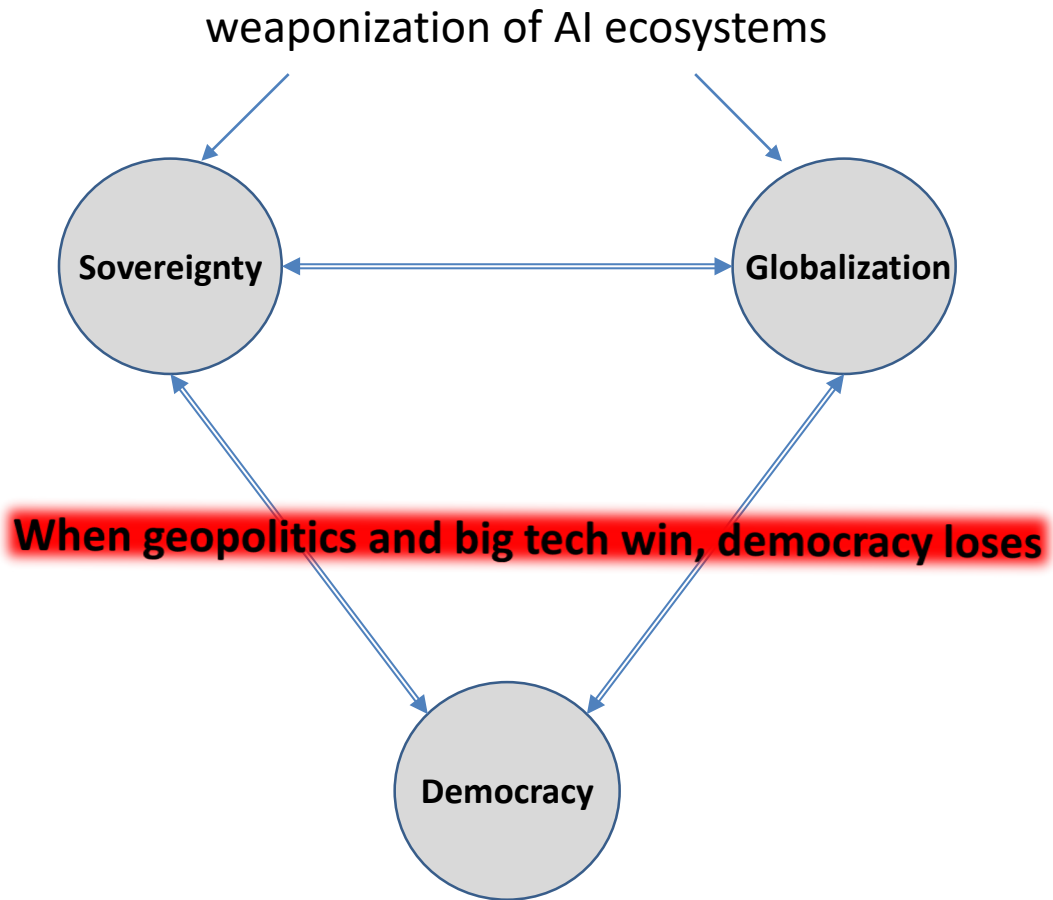


a highly probable, high impact yet neglected threat



# Trilemma

- pick two cannot have three -



TikTok offers what many citizens want but governments worry

Popular opposition to international trade negotiations

Opposition to globalize GMOs or free flow of data

# Increase democracy agency through digital humanism

## Weaponization and AI

1. Research into the technological **and** regulatory design of interoperable, transparent, decentralized, distributed, mutual interdependent AI techno-social system
2. Put weaponization under democratic control, distinguish acceptable from unacceptable weaponization

## Trilemma and AI

3. Within trilemma: strengthen the voice of democracy in AI governance – a role for Digital Humanism with academics, civil society, citizens
4. Escape from the trilemma: learn from IAEA, IPCC, CERN (even if not models of inclusive and human-centric democracy) for an ‘International Panel on AI & Democracy’

# Thank you!

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