

TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY AS A NEW PARAMETER IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Breakthrough developments in world history are important driving factors in the political, sociological, economic, and cultural processes. This dynamics of change creates opportunities for the stakeholders of these processes, whereas it brings some risks along with it.(1) In this context, technological advancements of the 21st century disrupted the basics for the playfield of modern diplomacy and international relations. Especially some of the newly developed technologies play an important role in the international relations processes. Seeing the developments in technology, one can easily propose that the countries can use artificial intelligence to create a political framework soon. Probably, a leap forward in information technologies, artificial intelligence, and autonomous air vehicles will redraw the geopolitical structure or change the superiority relation between countries in various fields.

Consequently, technological and scientific advancements in the field of international relations become more important as days pass. The information technologies creates international relations-related advantages as well as some challenges. Many legal and illegal actors can create an international public opinion by utilizing the opportunities provided by information technologies. States are facing some hardships and tests due to such challenges of illegal groups. (2)

Information technologies, via social media platforms, made the international community more sensitive to important developments in different parts of the world. This rapid development of information technologies created new fields for the non-state actors for their activities and made them an actor in international politics. These technologies stand as extraordinary tools for the various groups that aim to create a public opinion and can bring internal political matters of countries to the field of international politics. As seen with the Arabian Spring case, organizations arising from social media can change the political landscape of a country. Thus, scientific and technological advancements have the potential to affect the course of social and political events.

The effect of technological advancements in the field of international relations can not be limited to social media platforms. Military and economic power are the two important factors that determine the sphere of influence for a country in international relations. A global race for developing military or everyday-use artificial intelligence had already started among some states. The dynamic nature of technological advancements had created a new dimension for international relations.



Nowadays, we are witnessing Industry 4.0 as the reflection of the industrial revolution in today's world, consequently, the deck is shuffled and the race in the international arena kicks on again. Electric vehicles, drone technologies, artificial intelligence, and similar developments are causing a tectonic shift in the international arena and change the power balance in the world.

As it can be seen with the example of Turkey, Idlib province of Syria, in Libya, and finally in Nagorno Karabagh, Unmanned Armed Air Vehicles made in Turkey changed the outfit and the results of these operations. This fact raised a huge interest in the global community for these technologies created by Turkish companies. The role of Unmanned Armed Air Vehicles in combats and Turkey's development in this field became an agenda topic throughout the world. Those military systems which had proven their effectiveness on the battlefield and their

intensive use create a trend towards a reconsideration of conventional military systems thus the demand for these technologies spiked in the global market. In contrast with Armed Air Vehicles used by Pilots, Unmanned Armed Air Vehicles prevent loss of trained human resources in military operations and provides superior aerial control, hence they become a center of attraction for states and non-state actors. (3)

Turkey's military capabilities which were enhanced with unmanned air vehicles made the country a regional power with the power of enforcement. Turkey's fight with France in the Eastern Mediterranean stands as one of the most important indicators of that fact. Advancements in drone technologies also contribute to the advancement of the different sectors within the country and digitalization leaps into the country's economy as a new dynamic.

The race restarts from the starting point due to the technological advancements and digitalization as a result, a country's agility to adopt new technological developments determines the importance of the very same country. Once "pale in comparison" countries with limited geopolitical impact, rapidly coming into the front rows. The reason behind China's success of being the world's second-biggest economy can be seen as its gigantic leaps in digitalization. China served to the world as a cheap production workshop until the late '90s, but after reaching the medium income level, they had developed a digitalization-based structural transformation strategy with a master plan. If China does not have this digitalization strategy, it wouldn't have been possible for them to get closer to the USA and Europe in terms of economic power, thus in world politics, they would not be as influential as they are today. Today we are observing that China has an equivalent for all of the information Technologies owned by the USA. China, thanks to its effective transformation strategies in fields like artificial intelligence, electric vehicle production, and military industry, is a digital power that is ahead of the USA in some sectors and ahead of Europe nearly in all sectors.

Nowadays, giant corporations which drive scientific and technological advancements become a part of international relations. With their steady stream of revenue, these corporations become



economically stronger than the states and they become politically and socially influential actors with this economic power. CEO of a company which is known for its innovations in the digital world Amazon Corporation's Jeff Bezos' acquisition of the well-known newspaper Washington Post, brought up the discussion that the technology tycoon is trying to have a Word in American politics.

Nowadays, the technological dependencies of the countries are at the center of geopolitical controversies. These debates often go on under the title of technological sovereignty. Eventhough the scientific and technological advancements are comprehensively discussed on the international scene, describing the basics of these advancements and classifying their geopolitical impacts is still an acute need. Especially the cyber-attacks performed by Russia towards Estonia in 2007 bring this topic to the table. This time the tension between the two countries did not increase as a result of a diplomatic crisis or an open conflict, but due to a new method called Cyber-attacks. In the aftermath of this event; various world states bring their claim to determine their cyber-space into the question.

In a lawsuit in an American Court, 3 Russian companies were accused of colluding with the results of the 2016 United States of America Presidential election. It was claimed that Russia interfered with the U.S. elections by influencing the U.S. voters and cyber-attacks to the ballot counting system. As it can be seen with this claims of cyber-attacks to an election that affects all the world; Thus, international relations stands as an evolving concept within the scope of all these technological advancements. (4) The 21st century will be shaped based on the ability of the international actors in driving scientific and technological advancement and how they utilize these advancements. Technological advancements that drive a reconsideration to the approach of classical sovereignty will affect the political evolution of the world in the future as it does today.



ANTALYA
DIPLOMACY
FORUM

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(2) BİLGİ TEKNOLOJİLERİ VE ULUSLARARASI İLİŞKİLERDE FIRSAT-TEHDİT PARADOKSU Soner KARAGÜL / Muhammet Fatih ÖZKAN Bilgi Ekonomisi ve Yönetimi Dergisi / 2015 Cilt: X Sayı: I The Journal of Knowledge Economy & Knowledge Management / Volume: X Spring

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