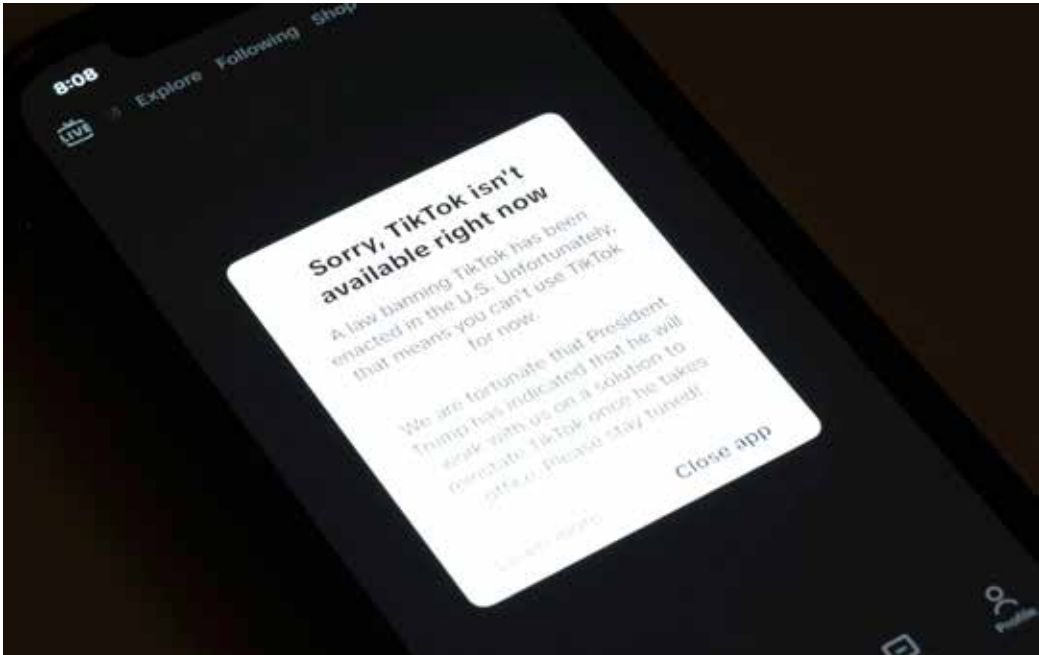A visitor learns about Huawei's 5G products and solutions at the firm's booth at MWC19 in Barcelona, Spain, in February 2019.
● *KHINE KYAW/MYANMAR ELEVEN*

A message reading "Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now" is displayed by the TikTok app on a cell phone screen on January 18, 2025. The ban was later lifted by Donald Trump, the next US president.
● *ANDY BAO/AP*

ed States and China is part of Washington's efforts to neutralize potential foreign influence campaigns.

Competition for technological influence in geopolitical regions

In 2013, Beijing introduced the Digital Silk Road as part of the mega-project Belt and Road initiative. This plan focused on supporting Chinese tech giants in expanding their overseas activities. Based on this, the activities of Baidu, Tencent, and Alibaba expanded beyond the domestic sphere to the international arena. This initiative, through the expansion of digital technologies in the geopolitical regions of developing countries or the Global South, poses challenges to US technological dominance.

In general, competition in the export of AI-related technologies between China and the United States is ongoing. European countries have largely opted for the more expensive yet more secure American systems, while poorer countries, primarily in Africa and the Indo-Pacific, are drawn to the Digital Silk Road initiatives.

Competing over technological raw materials

Technological competition among global powers will continue for a long time. Although conflicts over technological superiority between the United States (alongside Europe, Japan, and Taiwan) and China will intensify, a full-scale confrontation between the two sides seems unlikely

due to the interconnectedness of the global digital economy. Domestically, China is committed to accelerating scientific advancements. Through strengthening self-reliance in AI and chip manufacturing, it seeks to balance against the technological superiority of the United States and its aligned coalition in Europe and East Asia.

Internationally, China supports multilateral arrangements, including with the United Nations, to play a leading role in global AI governance — a move that could marginalize the United States. The United States, leveraging its institutional and consensus-building powers, will strive to limit China's actions and progress in the technological domain.

Techno-geopolitical competition in military sphere

It is evident that China's use of AI in the military sphere is a pressing national security concern for the United States. China considers AI crucial for modern warfare. China's focus on "intelligent warfare" reflects a shift in its military strategy, emphasizing the extensive use of AI at all levels of conflict, from planning and intelligence to operations. AI also plays a key role in achieving China's overarching goal of becoming a "world-class military" through the "intelligentization" of its armed forces. Techno-geopolitical alignments in the military sector between the United States and China are gradually emerging. In Australia, engineers are working on

the Ghost Shark submarine, which operates with AI and has no human crew. This project is part of the competition between the United States and its allies against China over the development of AI-controlled weapons. Thus, the AI military revolution unfolds within the framework of US-China techno-geopolitical competition and shapes the future of global equations. Success in this grand competition requires maintaining technological advantages and intelligently adapting them to geopolitical spheres of influence.

Strategic outlook for Iran

Remarkable advancements in the technological domain, as well as global competition in this field, can create strategic opportunities for other countries. Information systems based on technology can categorize vast amounts of data from various geographical locations to identify patterns and highlight useful information. Thus, they provide decision-makers with more useful and higher-quality information at a faster pace. Moreover, various technology-driven software can play a key role in information warfare operations by surveying and analyzing public opinion through social media data. The capacity of technology, in general, and AI, in particular, to produce unconventional outcomes in the military domain is also considered a strategic advantage. The unpredictability of technology leads to miscalculations by the opposing side.

Iran will be one of the primary

targets of US sanctions policies in digital technologies, including halting the export of advanced microchips and slowing the development of related sensitive technologies. However, building domestic capacity while leveraging foreign experiences — through optimizing policies and simultaneously considering opportunities and constraints — ensures success in this regard.

The achievements of strategic partners such as China and Russia, with whom Iran's defense diplomacy has made significant progress, should be utilized. Among neighbors as well, given the progress made and the priorities outlined, there is ample room for maneuver and movement to expand Iran's digital diplomacy.

In practical terms, Iran has recently moved beyond the stage of drafting a national document and establishing a relevant domestic organization and authority in the field of AI. According to the National Artificial Intelligence Document approved in 2022, the goal is to be among the top 10 leading countries in AI by 2031. The National Artificial Intelligence Organization is responsible for developing infrastructure and organizing and developing the AI ecosystem. Alongside institutional and legal arrangements, the development of infrastructure related to digital technologies and AI must be prioritized.

The techno-geopolitical dualities mentioned in this research call on aligned and allied actors to adjust their commercial behavior according to the outlined standards, which are clearly de-

fined against the rival technological pole. Washington is striving to expand its techno-geopolitical sphere of influence against the threat of Chinese AI to US allies such as Japan, India, Australia, South Korea, and Taiwan. Meanwhile, Chinese companies are also targeting developing countries and the Global South in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, seeking to gain technological influence in these geopolitical regions. The main competition revolves around controlling global financial, informational, and telecommunications networks and more effectively participating in setting international technology standards and related norm-setting institutions.

Overall, technology has transformed traditional patterns of global competition. In the new context, economic leaps have shifted from traditional models to knowledge-based economies. Examining new development models shows that the role of digital technology, as the main driving element, has been elevated.

Thus, the focus of countries' competition to enhance their strategic weight in the international system is shifting toward the digital economy and advanced technologies. From this perspective, any country or bloc that excels and leads in the technological domain will also lead the global economy, have greater geopolitical weight, and generally shape the arrangements related to the international balance of power.

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The first of three Australian Ghost Shark Extra-Large AUV manufactured prototypes is unveiled on April 18, 2024, by the Royal Australian Navy *(RAN)*.
● *REDDIT*

● *TV BRICS*