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Artificial Intelligence, International Relation and Religion: USA and Global South

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Abstract
The intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI), International Relations, and Religion represents a complex and evolving landscape that is reshaping global politics, diplomacy, and cultural narratives. This paper explores how AI-driven technologies are influencing international power dynamics between the United States and the Global South, particularly through the lens of religious values and ethical frameworks. As the U.S. leads in AI innovation, it exports technological systems and governance models that may conflict with or reshape religious and cultural identities in the Global South. These systems, embedded with Western values, often raise concerns about digital colonialism, surveillance ethics, and ideological hegemony. Conversely, the Global South increasingly seeks to assert its own agency by developing AI frameworks rooted in indigenous knowledge systems and religious worldviews, creating alternative paradigms of technological governance. International relations theory must evolve to account for the growing role of AI in diplomatic strategy, cyber-defense, and geopolitical negotiations. AI tools are now integral in managing migration, climate diplomacy, disinformation campaigns, and international development. However, the integration of religious ethics into AI discourse remains underdeveloped, especially in multilateral forums. Faith-based organizations and religious leaders in both the U.S. and the Global South are beginning to engage in the ethical regulation of AI, advocating for human dignity, social justice, and inclusive innovation. This engagement fosters transnational dialogue and offers new pathways for soft power diplomacy. The paper also highlights the risks and opportunities inherent in AI's role in religious radicalization, interfaith dialogue, and peacebuilding efforts. AI's capacity to personalize content and analyze sentiment can either exacerbate religious tensions or promote mutual understanding, depending on how it is deployed. Ultimately, the relationship between AI, religion, and international relations necessitates a rethinking of global governance structures to ensure equitable access, cultural sensitivity, and ethical standards in the development and use of AI technologies. Through an interdisciplinary approach, this study underscores the need for collaborative policy frameworks that integrate technological innovation with spiritual and moral dimensions to promote global peace and mutual respect.

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1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly evolved from being a niche field within computer science to becoming a pivotal transformative force across numerous societal domains, including data analytics, automation, surveillance, and predictive modeling. As AI technologies permeate the fabric of global economic systems and governance, they challenge traditional sociocultural interactions. The strategic integration of AI into the frameworks of nation-states has led to significant implications that transcend technological advancements; these implications encompass shifts in power dynamics, ethical standards, and cultural identities on a global scale (Jobin *et al*., 2019; Ulnicane *et al*., 2021).

In the contemporary geopolitical landscape, there exists an evident technological arms race primarily led by countries like the United States, which forefronts AI innovation and infrastructure development.

In contrast, nations within the Global South face the dual imperatives of leveraging AI for developmental benefits while resisting technological subjugation and preserving their cultural autonomy (Kshetri, 2021; Srivastava, 2023). The intersection of international relations with socio-political dynamics, particularly within religious contexts, adds layers of complexity to the way AI is perceived and utilized. Religious institutions often provide critical ethical frameworks and social values that influence community engagement with AI technologies, particularly regarding issues of dignity, justice, privacy, and agency (de-Lima-Santos & Jamil, 2024; Mohamed *et al*., 2020).

This interplay necessitates a nuanced examination of how AI reframes diplomatic engagements, modifies power structures, and alters ethical considerations across diverse cultural contexts. For instance, as countries from the Global South respond to U.S.-exported AI governance models, they often navigate significant tensions like digital colonialism, which raises questions about fairness and the democratization of emerging technologies (Shaw *et al*., 2024; Farhad, 2024). Religion plays a vital role as a socio-political force, influencing public policy and community engagement dynamics in relation to AI, particularly as communities endeavor to align technological integration with their fundamental beliefs and values (Opesemowo & Adekomaya, 2024: Youvan, 2024).

The implications of these assumptions hold considerable weight for future research and policy development, especially considering the limitations imposed by existing inequalities in resources and technological capacity. As nations grapple with the challenges of AI incorporation, understanding the ethical dimensions stemming from religious and cultural contexts becomes essential in fostering inclusive AI policies that respect cultural diversity while promoting innovation (Aliaga & Ríos, 2023: Walter, 2024). Thus, the study sheds light on the critical need for interdisciplinary approaches in AI governance that transcend mere technological advancement to embrace ethical, cultural, and social imperatives integral to global harmony and progress.

2. Methodology

The methodology for this research focuses on evaluating the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), international relations (IR), and religion, particularly in the context of the USA and the Global South. The study aims to explore the impacts of AI on international relations and religious practices, with special attention to the implications of emerging technologies and AI in various cultural contexts.

The process begins with the selection of studies based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. These criteria are designed to ensure that only relevant research articles, reports, and scholarly works on AI's impact on international relations and religion are considered. The screening process involves an initial review of titles and abstracts to filter out irrelevant or low-quality sources. Next, the full texts of the remaining articles are reviewed to confirm that they meet the study's inclusion criteria. These articles must specifically address the role of AI in shaping global diplomatic relationships, its ethical considerations within different religious contexts, and its influence on the socioeconomic structures of the Global South.

Once the eligible studies are identified, data extraction occurs, where key information is systematically gathered from the selected studies. This includes understanding how AI technologies are applied in different international political frameworks, their implications for religious practices, and the ethical, cultural, and socioeconomic challenges faced by countries in the Global South. The data collected is then categorized into themes such as AI governance, cultural sensitivity in AI implementation, the role of AI in global security, and the ethical considerations of AI in relation to religious beliefs.

Following data extraction, a detailed analysis is conducted to assess the quality and relevance of the selected studies. This analysis focuses on identifying trends and patterns, comparing different AI technologies' impacts across various regions, and understanding how AI shapes power dynamics within international relations and religion. Special attention is given to the ethical issues related to AI and religion, particularly how AI might challenge or reinforce religious values and practices in both the Global South and the USA.

The results of the analysis are synthesized to present a comprehensive understanding of the role of AI in shaping global diplomatic relations and religious practices. This synthesis includes a comparative analysis between the USA and the Global South, highlighting how different regions respond to AI-driven challenges and opportunities in international relations and religion. The findings are discussed in the context of decolonizing AI governance, addressing power imbalances, and exploring AI's potential to both advance and undermine global justice.

Finally, the inclusion of studies is reviewed, and the final dataset of included articles is established. The methodology ensures that the research captures a holistic view of the evolving dynamics between AI, international relations, and religion, providing insights into how these forces shape global governance and religious practices in both the USA and the Global South.

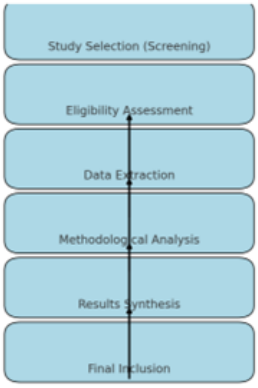

Fig 1: PRISMA Flow chart of the study methodology

2.1 The Rise of AI in global politics

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in global politics signifies a transformative era characterized by an intricate interplay between digital technologies, national economies, and international relations. Particularly within the context of the United States and the Global South, AI has emerged as a pivotal domain in the quest for geopolitical supremacy and technological sovereignty (Wakunuma & Eke, 2024). The strategic development and deployment of AI not only foster opportunities but also engender tensions among nations. Consequently, AI has become central to discussions surrounding ethical leadership and the redefinition of power dynamics on the global stage (Georgescu, 2022: Vega, *et al*., 2024)

Historically, the development of AI in the United States can be traced back to the 1950s, initiated during the Cold War when military interests predominantly drove computational research. The establishment of AI as a distinct field was marked by the Dartmouth Conference in 1956, which transitioned the U.S. into a leading role in AI innovation (Dados & Connell, 2012: Varela, 2024). Key institutions such as MIT, Stanford, and Carnegie Mellon emerged as hubs for advanced research, supported heavily by federal funding agencies like DARPA (Dados & Connell, 2012). The military-industrial complex significantly contributed to advancements in areas such as machine learning, robotics, and surveillance technologies, primarily aimed at national defense and security applications (Madianou, 2019: Tunggala, 2025). Figure 2 shoe the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Modern Society presented by Ebenibo, *et al*., 2024.

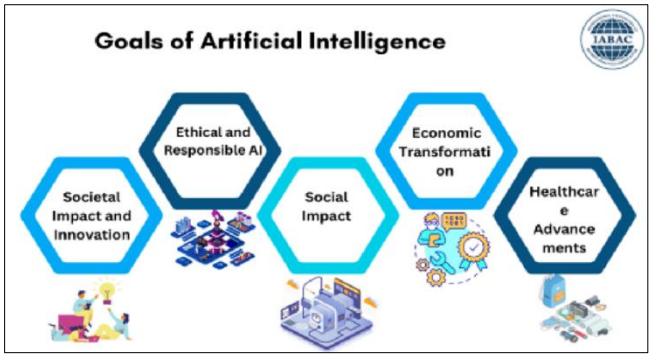

Fig 2: Role of Artificial Intelligence in Modern Society (Ebenibo, *et al*., 2024).

In contemporary settings, AI has evolved to become a cornerstone of U.S. national security and economic growth, playing a crucial role in various sectors including healthcare, finance, and cybersecurity. Leading tech corporations, such as Google, Microsoft, and Amazon, dominate the development of AI applications, reflecting a strategic emphasis on innovation and global competitiveness (Georgescu, 2022; Seo *et al*., 2024)This is underscored by governmental initiatives like the National AI Initiative Act of 2020, which outlines the importance of AI in fostering economic and technological leadership while addressing ethical concerns and promoting workforce development (Dados & Connell, 2012: Taylor, Gulson & McDuie-Ra, 2023).

Strategically, AI enhances the capabilities of U.S. defense sectors through autonomous systems, threat detection, and intelligence analysis. The Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) integrates AI into military operations, exemplifying its necessity in modern warfare (Georgescu, 2022: Srivastava, 2023) However, ethical implications regarding AI technologies, particularly concerning lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), have sparked substantial international dialogue aimed at creating regulations and safeguarding humanitarian interests (Hossain, *et al*., 2024: Singler, 2025). AI is also utilized in U.S. diplomacy, where predictive modeling and crisis management tools are employed to advance national interests, reflecting a convergence of technology and geopolitics (Georgescu, 2022; Hossain, *et al*., 2024).

Conversely, nations in the Global South are increasingly asserting their own agency in AI development, seeking to leverage AI technologies for economic progress and autonomy. Countries such as Rwanda and Ghana have initiated national strategies to cultivate local AI ecosystems, while India and Brazil have established hubs to drive innovation suited to their specific challenges (Ayana *et al*., 2024; Singh *et al*., 2022). This shift highlights a growing concern for technological sovereignty, navigating the complexities of external dependencies that may compromise local data privacy and security (Pajares Sangay, 2024). As a result, regional coalitions and guidelines are emerging, influenced by distinct cultural and ethical frameworks (Farhad, 2024: Riaz, Ayub & Idrees, 2024).

Religion and ethical considerations significantly influence how AI governance is perceived in the Global South, diverging from the often secular approaches seen in the U.S. Communities engage with technology through lenses shaped by spiritual values and social accountability, reflecting a strong emphasis on moral considerations in technological adoption (Singh *et al*., 2022: Guzmán, 2024). This divergence adds to the complexity of international cooperation, necessitating reconciliatory dialogues about ethical AI frameworks that resonate across diverse cultural landscapes (Singh *et al*., 2022: Vinuesa *et al*., 2020).

Despite promising developments, the Global South faces structural impediments that hinder full participation in the AI revolution, including limited access to infrastructure, skilled labor shortages, and intellectual property constraints that favor established tech powers (Seo *et al*., 2024; Farhad, 2024). Addressing these disparities will require concerted efforts toward capacity building and reforming global governance structures to democratize the benefits of AI technology (ÓhÉigeartaigh, *et al*., 2020).

In summary, the evolution of AI in global politics is intricately tied to shifts in economic and ideological power. The United States maintains its leadership role, wielding AI as a tool of defense and diplomatic influence. Meanwhile, the Global South is not merely reacting to external technological advances but is actively shaping its digital future through agency and innovation (Ngan, 2023). Understanding these dynamics necessitates a multidisciplinary approach that acknowledges diverse historical contexts, sociopolitical realities, and ethical considerations in fostering a collaborative and equitable AI landscape (Georgescu, 2022; Singh *et al*., 2022).

2.2 International Relations in the AI Era

The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed the landscape of international relations, reshaping global power dynamics, diplomatic strategies, and governance frameworks. The historical dominance of the

United States in technological innovation, particularly in AI, has fortified its geopolitical influence. As highlighted by Grochmalski, the U.S. and China are engaged in intense competition for strategic supremacy in AI, characterized by a race for military and technological advantage (Grochmalski, 2020: Ndzendze & Marwala, 2023). This competition emphasizes how the U.S. utilizes its advancements in AI not only for economic leadership but also as a means to project soft power on the international stage. AI technologies developed by U.S. tech giants like Google and Microsoft are influential in setting international standards, underlining their pivotal role in shaping global governance frameworks related to AI (Mohamed, Png & Isaac, 2020: Zimba, 2025). Conceptual framework of artificial intelligence and human rights and of their mutual and dynamic linkages presented by Mpinga, *et al*., 2022, is shown in figure 3.

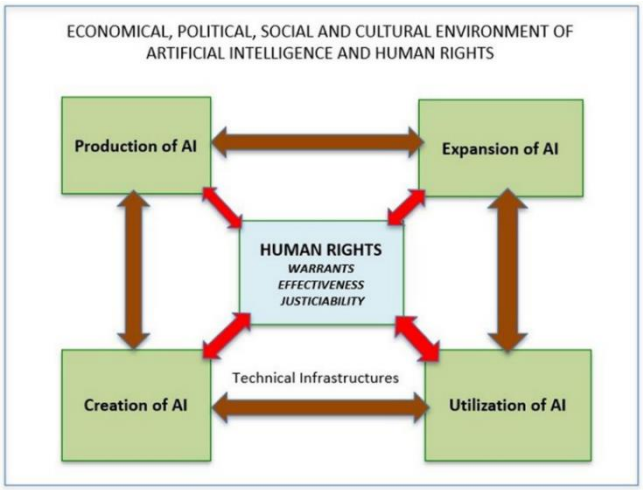

Fig 3: Conceptual framework of artificial intelligence and human rights and of their mutual and dynamic linkages (Mpinga, *et al*., 2022).

In a contrasting manner, the Global South, once seen primarily as recipients of technology, is increasingly asserting its aspirations for AI sovereignty. This reflects a growing recognition among nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America of the importance of aligning AI governance with local values and development goals. Zimba emphasizes that AI is a general-purpose technology that has the potential to alter socio-economic models in favor of actors who strategically invest in it (Meleouni & Efthymiou, 2023: Zimba, 2025). Countries like India, Brazil, and Nigeria are beginning to develop their own AI strategies and frameworks that prioritize ethical governance and context-aware modeling, aiming to counter historical dependencies on Western technologies (Wakunuma & Eke, 2024; Islam, 2025).

AI's role extends beyond mere technological innovation; it serves as a powerful tool of influence and surveillance. Countries leverage AI for strategic gains, yet the ramifications of such technologies can deepen inequalities and infringe on privacy, echoing Birhane's critical examination of algorithmic colonization (Birhane, 2020: Kwet, 2019). This perspective highlights how the exportation of AI systems from the U.S. often imposes frameworks that may lack cultural relevance or ethical considerations for the jurisdictions they enter. The concerns raised by the Global South underscore the demand for a more equitable approach to AI governance that resists neocolonial practices and strives for collaboration respectful of local contexts and social norms (Aruna *et al*., 2024: Korkmaz, =2024).

As nations address these challenges, AI is increasingly positioned as a facilitator of international cooperation to tackle collective issues. Initiatives addressing climate change and public health crises have begun to integrate AI-driven solutions, which can optimize resource allocation and enhance predictive capacities (Ferràs *et al*., 2023; Shaw *et al*., 2024). The extensive potential of AI to address global challenges provides an opportunity for collaborative frameworks, provided equitable access to these technologies is ensured, thus preventing further marginalization of the Global South in an increasingly AI-driven international landscape (Kolade, 2024: Xie, 2025).

The dynamics of digital diplomacy illustrate the geopolitical significance of AI. The U.S. has employed AI in its diplomatic strategies, particularly focusing on technology transfer and investment in digital infrastructure in Africa (Khan, 2025: Roche *et al*., 2022). However, there is a notable pushback from African nations desiring technology that reflects their cultural and ethical landscapes (Keles, 2023: Sharma & Sharma, 2024). Additionally, China's role in Latin America highlights a contrasting approach to technology transfer, establishing strategic partnerships through its Belt and Road Initiative, which enhances its influence while raising concerns about data sovereignty and local governance alignment (Johnson, 2019: Wakunuma & Eke, 2024; Montgomery, 2024).

In conclusion, AI's transformative impact on international relations reveals a complex interplay of power, ethics, and cooperation. While the U.S. maintains a dominant position through its technological innovations, the emerging aspirations of the Global South for AI sovereignty signify a paradigm shift towards more inclusive and context-sensitive governance of artificial intelligence (Hussain, 2024). To navigate the future of international relations effectively, stakeholders must cultivate frameworks that prioritize ethical considerations, equitable access, and robust collaboration between nations, thereby fostering a resilient global order capable of addressing shared challenges.

2.3 Religion and AI Ethics

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has engendered significant ethical, cultural, and social debates globally, revealing complex implications for international relations. These debates are often intensified by the intersection of AI technologies—ranging from data processing and automation to surveillance—and various ethical concerns. As highlighted by Umbrello, the rapid evolution of AI has raised important questions regarding its integration within various societal frameworks, including religious communities (Hu, *et al*., 2019: Umbrello, 2023). The diversity of religious belief systems complicates these discussions, as they provide varying ethical frameworks that are interpreted differently across cultures.

In the context of AI ethics, religious teachings profoundly influence perspectives surrounding human dignity and moral responsibility. For instance, Christian ethics emphasize the sanctity of life and the moral obligation to protect the vulnerable, with Catholic teachings advocating for technology that promotes human flourishing and the common good (Horowitz, *et al*., 2022: Susskind, 2021). The Vatican

has called for the establishment of a moral compass for AI development, emphasizing the need for human-centered values that resonate with respect for life and environmental considerations (Garrido Rebolledo, 2025: Susskind, 2021). Similarly, Islamic teaching prioritizes justice, equity, and the ethical treatment of individuals, advocating for technology that enhances human welfare and social justice (Alkhouri, 2024: Girasa, 2020)

Further insights emerge from Indigenous belief systems, which focus heavily on community, ecological balance, and respect for nature. Indigenous traditions often critique the individualistic and profit-driven motives prevalent in AI development in Western contexts, urging frameworks that consider collective well-being and sustainable practices (Baffoe, 2023: Elliott, 2019). This contrasts sharply with the motivations behind many Western technological advancements and raises awareness of the potential risks AI poses to cultural preservation and environmental integrity.

Responses from religious institutions towards the rise of AI highlight both caution and enthusiasm. Prominent religious leaders, including Pope Francis, have voiced concerns regarding the risk of dehumanization brought about by AI and automation, underscoring the necessity of ethical development in AI, which should prioritize dignity and welfare, especially for marginalized populations (Douglas & Shin, 2025: Susskind, 2021). In the Global South, religious institutions seek to ensure that AI technology reflects local cultural and moral values, as many religious leaders argue against Western technologies that may perpetuate existing inequalities (Baffoe, 2023: de Lange, 2021). They advocate for ethical AI systems that align with principles of human dignity and cultural tradition (Baffoe, 2023: Das & Muschert, 2024). Weng, *et al*., 2019, presented in figure 4, The religious impact of Taoism on AI and robotics from three different perspectives.

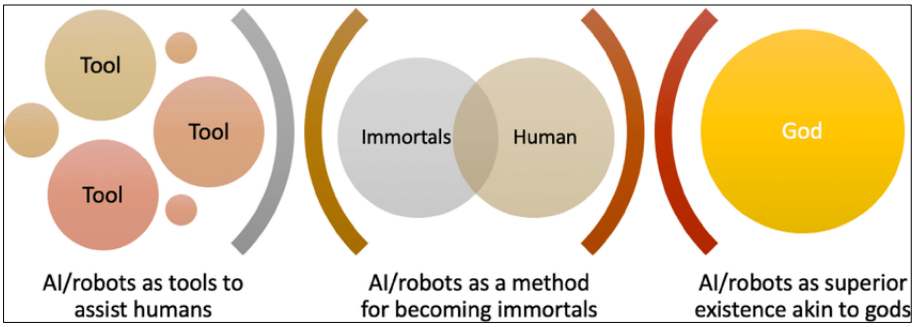

Fig 4: The religious impact of Taoism on AI and robotics from three different perspectives (Weng, *et al*., 2019).

Automation, a significant byproduct of AI advancements, raises critical ethical questions about labor and human dignity. Religious institutions are increasingly concerned about job displacement and the ethical distribution of wealth in automation contexts. There exists a growing discourse among leaders advocating for economic systems that share the benefits of AI more equitably among all sectors of society (Dairo, 2025: Guna *et al*., 2024). Furthermore, the issue of data privacy remains a crucial area of ethical concern. Religious teachings across traditions emphasize the protection of personal privacy as fundamental to human dignity (Dafoe, 2018: Othman *et al*., 2015). Both Christian and Islamic perspectives closely align on viewing privacy as integral to individual autonomy and societal morality, advocating for robust safeguards against data exploitation (Alkhouri, 2024; Othman *et al*., 2015).

In summary, the ethical implications of AI are significantly mediated by religious beliefs and frameworks. Each tradition—Christianity, Islam, and Indigenous cultures—offers distinctive insights that emphasize the importance of dignity, justice, and social equity in AI development. The engagement of religious institutions in AI ethics discourse is crucial to ensure that technological advancements serve the common good and uphold the rights of all individuals, particularly those who are most vulnerable (Cummings, *et al*., 2018: Montasari, 2024).

2.4 Tensions and Convergences

The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is indeed ushering in an era characterized by significant technological, social, and geopolitical transformations. AI's infusion into diverse spheres including economics, healthcare, education, and governance is shaping power dynamics in international relations. The United States, as a pioneering force in AI innovation, maintains substantial influence over global AI development, regulation, and deployment. This influence is not without contention; nations in the Global South have raised concerns regarding the ethical ramifications of Western-developed AI, signaling the emergence of tensions reminiscent of digital colonialism, where technologies from the Global North impose their values upon the Global South without due consideration for local contexts (de-Lima-Santos & Jamil, 2024: Shaw *et al*., 2024).

Digital colonialism encapsulates how AI systems and digital tools developed by Global North entities can perpetuate existing inequalities. Such technologies, including facial recognition software and data analytics tools, typically embody Western assumptions and principles which can clash with local cultural and ethical frameworks (Schiff *et al*., 2021; Murphy *et al*., 2021). As these technologies are applied in Global South contexts, often leading to enhanced state surveillance or unjust governance practices, communities express legitimate concerns about violations of civil liberties and the erosion of privacy rights. For example, AI surveillance utilized in regions such as Africa or Latin America often neglects cultural nuances, prompting fears of oppression, particularly against marginalized groups (de-Lima-Santos & Jamil, 2024: Schiff *et al*., 2021)

The cultural imposition of Western-driven AI technologies presents specific ethical challenges in various parts of the Global South. In countries where spiritual beliefs are tightly interwoven with cultural identity, AI systems may be perceived as tools that undermine traditional values and moral imperatives. For instance, within Islamic and

Indigenous communities, AI technology often conflicts with deeply held beliefs about authority, moral order, and communal values, leading to apprehensions about the diminishing role of culturally rooted practices in domains like healthcare and education (Chatzivasileiou, *et al*., 2024: Raquib *et al*., 2022). Community leaders in these regions have voiced the need for ethical AI frameworks that resonate with their spiritual and cultural contexts to combat these concerns and preserve local values (de-Lima-Santos & Jamil, 2024: Montasari, 2024).

Moreover, the ethics surrounding AI in Global North-developed systems typically reflect distinct societal values such as individualism, privacy, and efficiency—principles that may not hold the same weight in collective-oriented cultures of the Global South. Ethical frameworks emerging from discussions on AI governance in the Global South emphasize principles like communal well-being and social harmony, presenting a counter-narrative to Western values embedded in AI systems (Schiff *et al*., 2021; Hoseini, 2023). This shift towards localized ethical considerations is crucial as it acknowledges the paramount importance of integrating cultural and religious perspectives in the design and implementation of AI technologies.

The sovereignty of nations in the Global South is also challenged by the increasing dependence on foreign technology, which often relinquishes local control over data and infrastructure. This dependence can solidify existing power imbalances, where control over digital resources remains predominantly in the hands of foreign corporations. The integration of AI technologies that collect and utilize extensive data from local populations risks exacerbating these inequalities, raising ethical questions about exploitation and the protection of local citizens' rights (Schiff *et al*., 2021; Shaw *et al*., 2024).

In response to these challenges, nations in the Global South are exploring alternative AI ethics models that respect local values. These emerging frameworks advocate for community engagement in decision-making processes, arguing for AI system designs that accommodate traditional practices and facilitate local autonomy (Bozdag, 2023: de-Lima-Santos & Jamil, 2024). For instance, collaborations among religious leaders and local healers are becoming more prevalent, with discussions centered on integrating AI in ways that complement rather than replace traditional approaches in healthcare (Challoumis, 2024: Hoseini, 2023: He, 2024).

In conclusion, the profound transformative potential of AI is marred by significant ethical concerns and geopolitical tensions between the Global North and South. The exportation of AI technologies often reflects a form of digital colonialism that imposes Western values upon diverse cultures without sufficient regard for local contexts. However, the Global South's efforts to develop homegrown AI ethics models that integrate cultural and religious frameworks point toward a more equitable future, ensuring that technological advances serve to enhance, rather than compromise, local identities and rights (Boateng & Boateng, 2025: Erendor, 2024).

2.5 AI, Religion, and Security

The intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI), religion, and security is a rapidly evolving and multifaceted challenge in contemporary society, particularly within the modern geopolitical landscape. AI technologies are increasingly applied in security contexts, sparking significant discourse regarding their impact on religious beliefs, practices, and interactions. Both the United States and nations within the Global South encounter distinctive challenges and opportunities as they navigate the use of AI to monitor religious groups, prevent radicalization, and manage the dissemination of disinformation (Bloom, 2020: Budacu, 2024).

AI plays a critical role in monitoring religious communities for signs of radicalization and violence. Governments have utilized AI systems, including facial recognition technology and social media analysis, to detect potential extremist activities (Ashraf, 2021: Bircan & Özbilgin, 2025). For example, by analyzing vast amounts of online content, AI tools can identify hate speech and extremist propaganda, thereby serving as preventive measures against violence (Allam, *et al*., 2022; Benaicha, 2024). However, the implementation of this technology raises serious ethical concerns, particularly regarding the infringement of religious freedoms. AI systems may target specific groups based on biased data sets, often disproportionately affecting minority religions such as Islam in the U.S. after 9/11 and Christians or Hindus in predominantly Muslim regions (Rohman, *et al*., 2023). Such targeted surveillance can lead to unjust profiling and increase existing societal tensions (Ahrweiler, 2025: Umbrello, 2023).

In addition to monitoring, there is a danger that the use of AI for security purposes may be politically weaponized, particularly in authoritarian regimes where governments may view certain religious groups as threats to their power. Surveillance technologies may be employed not just against extremist groups but against any groups challenging the regime (Rohman, *et al*., 2023). This misuse of AI can lead to the suppression of religious expression and increased targeting of minority groups under the pretext of national security, intensifying conflicts rather than alleviating them (Alkhouri, 2024).

Moreover, AI systems' reliance on historical data can perpetuate existing biases in decision-making processes, thereby discriminating against marginalized religious populations. For instance, the inaccuracy of facial recognition technology disproportionately impacts people of color, resulting in wrongful surveillance actions against vulnerable groups including religious minorities (Abbas Khan, *et al*., 2024: Varona & Suárez, 2022). The implications of this bias extend to the Global South, where AI could exacerbate discrimination based on the already tense religious dynamics in these regions. Such systemic bias could lead to increased marginalization and the reinforcement of societal prejudices (Rowatt & Al-Kire, 2021).

Though the challenges associated with AI in these contexts are substantial, there is also significant potential for AI to foster religious tolerance and enhance interfaith dialogue. AI can facilitate connections between diverse religious groups by identifying shared values and interests, which can be instrumental in building mutual understanding and peace (Alkhouri, 2024). Innovative platforms that employ AI might promote informed discussions and enable religious communities to engage constructively with one another, thus working towards reducing discord through dialogue-based conflict resolution (Vestrucci, 2022: Weng, *et al*., 2019).

Additionally, early interventions driven by AI can combat radicalization by identifying at-risk individuals and addressing the root causes of extremism through tailored programs — an approach particularly necessary in politically

unstable regions (Umbrello, 2023). AI's capacity to analyze behavioral data can lead to targeted actions that mitigate risks before they manifest into violent outcomes, thereby nurturing environments conducive to peace (Chatzivasileiou *et al*., 2024).

In sum, navigating the complex interplay between AI, religion, and security necessitates an ethical approach that foregrounds the protection of minority religions while capitalizing on AI's potential to advocate for peace and interfaith dialogue. As AI technologies continue to integrate into societal functions, stakeholders must ensure that their deployment is conducted in ways that uphold human rights, respect individual freedoms, and embrace cultural diversity (Mpinga, *et al*., 2022: Rohman, *et al*., 2023). The dialogues surrounding these technologies must prioritize the preservation of religious integrity and social cohesion amidst evolving technological landscapes.

2.6 Collaborative Possibilities

The evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has produced new opportunities for collaboration across diverse regions, cultures, and belief systems, particularly as global stakeholders engage to address pressing challenges. In this context, the intersections of AI, international relations, and religion emerge as significant pathways for fostering dialogue and cooperative solutions (Ebenibo, *et al*., 2024). The pressing need for frameworks that respect a range of ethical, cultural, and religious values is now more crucial than ever, especially as the United States, a leader in AI development, collaborates with countries in the Global South that are becoming increasingly important in AI governance.

International organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) play vital roles in developing inclusive AI governance frameworks that consider ethical, cultural, and religious implications. These organizations have traditionally focused on global cooperation to deal with critical issues like climate change and human rights, and they are beginning to incorporate AI into their agendas. For instance, the UN's "AI for Good" initiative exemplifies efforts to leverage AI for sustainable development, addressing issues from poverty to climate change while advocating for a human-centric approach to AI that aligns with ethical principles of justice and equity (Jobin *et al*., 2019; Floridi *et al*., 2018)

The AU's initiatives regarding AI reflect a commitment to local values in African nations, where concerns exist about AI potentially exacerbating inequalities or leading to a form of digital colonialism. By advocating for African-led AI initiatives, the AU emphasizes the importance of developing systems that are aware of cultural and religious diversity, as well as local challenges such as healthcare access and governance (de-Lima-Santos & Jamil, 2024; Kiemde & Kora, 2021). This approach underscores the necessity for ethical frameworks that resonate with the continent's values, ensuring that AI development empowers local communities without imposing external values (Murphy *et al*., 2020; Ayinla *et al*., 2024).

Similarly, the OIC acknowledges the dual characteristics of AI as both a beneficial tool and a potential risk for Muslim-majority nations, particularly regarding algorithmic bias and privacy issues. The organization's focus on developing AI technologies that adhere to Islamic ethical principles highlights the importance of incorporating religious perspectives into global governance, aiming to enhance human dignity and promote justice (Hoseini, 2023: Roche *et al*., 2022). This aligns with a broader recognition of the need for inclusive AI policies that respect cultural and religious diversity while promoting dialogue and cooperation across different contexts (Ayinla *et al*., 2024: Roche *et al*., 2022).

Engaging religious leaders in AI governance enhances discussions around technological ethics, as these leaders often shape societal values. In the U.S. and the Global South, religious voices are essential in advocating for ethical AI that champions dignity and social justice, especially in sensitive areas like predictive policing, where potential abuses may disproportionately affect marginalized communities. This dialogue is critical for developing AI systems that align with local cultural and religious norms, ensuring that technology acts as a tool for advancing peace and interfaith dialogue (Fan, 2024; Shaw *et al*., 2024; Murphy *et al*., 2021).

The demand for ethical, culturally sensitive policies is highlighted by the various frameworks emerging for AI governance, which must prioritize human rights, transparency, and accountability while being adaptable to local values and needs (Schiff *et al*., 2021; Ayinla *et al*., 2024). In the Global South, ethical AI frameworks that reflect indigenous beliefs or communal values can significantly enhance social justice and uphold human dignity while supporting local developmental goals (Okolo, 2022; Kiemde & Kora, 2021). For example, community-focused AI initiatives in Africa can tackle priority issues such as healthcare and food security, ensuring that technological advancements are aligned with local ethical imperatives.

Finally, international cooperation is crucial in establishing a comprehensive approach to ethical AI governance. Countries in the Global South and the United States must work together to create standardized frameworks that appreciate diversity and shared ethical principles, fostering a global community capable of addressing the complex challenges posed by AI (Georgieva *et al*., 2022; Hoseini, 2023). Multilateral engagement in forums like the UN, AU, and OIC can stimulate collaborative dialogues that bridge cultural and religious divides, furthering common aims of peace, dignity, and social justice through ethical AI (Schiff *et al*., 2021; Floridi *et al*., 2018)

In conclusion, the potential for collaboration that AI offers in international relations and among diverse religious groups is substantial. By promoting multilateral engagement, involving religious leaders, and developing ethical AI frameworks that prioritize human rights and cultural sensitivity, the international community can ensure that AI becomes a transformative force for good, innovating responsibly and inclusively in addressing global challenges.

3. Conclusion

The intersection of Artificial Intelligence, international relations, and religion reveals a complex and evolving landscape that is reshaping both global power dynamics and ethical frameworks. As AI continues to grow in influence, it has the potential to bring about both opportunities and challenges for the United States and the Global South. The United States, as a leading innovator in AI, has significant geopolitical influence in shaping how AI technologies are developed and governed. Meanwhile, the Global South, with its rich religious and cultural diversity, seeks to assert its agency in AI governance, ensuring that technological advancements align with local values and promote equitable development. Throughout this exploration, it is clear that the

relationship between AI, religion, and international relations is not just about technology; it is deeply connected to questions of cultural identity, ethical integrity, and global cooperation.

The key findings suggest that AI has become a powerful tool for both soft power and surveillance, offering immense potential for solving global issues like poverty, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. However, its deployment also raises significant concerns about digital colonialism, algorithmic bias, and the potential erosion of religious and cultural identities. The Global South, in particular, is navigating the challenges of technological sovereignty, while religious communities in both the U.S. and the Global South are calling for more culturally sensitive and ethically grounded AI development. These concerns underscore the need for AI governance that respects diverse religious and cultural traditions, ensuring that the technology serves as a force for good rather than reinforcing existing power imbalances.

An interdisciplinary approach to AI governance is essential to address these challenges. By integrating insights from religious scholars, ethicists, social scientists, and technologists, policymakers can develop AI frameworks that are not only technically advanced but also morally and culturally inclusive. Such an approach would enable the creation of AI systems that promote human dignity, religious freedom, and social justice, while respecting local cultural and religious norms. Interdisciplinary collaboration can also foster greater understanding and cooperation between the U.S. and the Global South, ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared equitably across borders.

To achieve this, it is crucial to prioritize policies that promote ethical AI development, encourage religious and cultural diversity in AI governance, and foster cross-cultural dialogue. Policymakers should focus on creating international AI frameworks that respect human rights and religious freedoms, while addressing the concerns of marginalized communities. Educational initiatives should be expanded to include ethical considerations in AI curricula, encouraging the next generation of technologists to think critically about the societal impact of their work. Furthermore, fostering dialogue between religious leaders, policymakers, and AI experts is essential to ensuring that AI development aligns with broader societal values and contributes to a more peaceful and just world.

In conclusion, as AI continues to shape global politics, it is imperative that its development and governance are guided by a commitment to ethical principles and respect for cultural and religious diversity. Through collaborative efforts and interdisciplinary approaches, the United States and the Global South can create a future where AI serves as a tool for enhancing human well-being, fostering interfaith dialogue, and promoting global peace and justice. Only by working together, respecting diverse perspectives, and prioritizing human dignity can we ensure that AI is used to create a better and more equitable world for all.

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