

IS AI HARMFUL FOR DEMOCRACY?

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Abstract

In the second decade of the 21st century, liberalism has begun to lose credibility and on the other hand monarchies, oligarchies, and other forms of authoritarian rule have been far more common modes of human governance.

The emergence of liberal democracies is accepted with ideals of liberty and equality. Their success in the 20th century depended on unique technological conditions.

In the last years, there has been a growing concern especially on risks of Artificial Intelligence. In accordance to that various international efforts to regulate artificial intelligence have begun, and many of these efforts involve issues related to firstly on data and then decision mechanisms; some of topics about these issues such as rules of ethics has no international consensus. But on the other hand some issues such as data privacy/ security and safety have international consensus (GDPR- EU).

Meanwhile, humans are partly excluded from the decision / control mechanisms of intelligent and learning enabled machines via Machine Learning (ML) algorithms and Deep Learning (DL) which are interacting with the environment (sometimes people) have higher levels of autonomy than before. By using AI on loop via these systems trusting the objective quantitative performance of our systems is itself a safety concern on democracy.

1. Introduction

The goal of this work is to explain governance strategies via explaining AI systems.

At that point the term platform governance has to be defined on democracy mechanisms via explaining the effects of platform companies / global corporations/ online services such as Facebook, Whatsapp, YouTube.

This work mainly aims to state this concept expressing interactions between main parties including platform companies, users, governments, and other political actors. At the beginning definition of the basic terms has to be stated because of the confusion of complex political effects of social

media (Instagram and others), Google Search, Airbnb, Uber, Amazon ..

“[accounting] for a diverse, contested environment of agents with differing levels of power and visibility: users, algorithms, platforms, industries and governments (K. Crawford & Lumby, 2013, p. 9).” (Suzor, 2018)

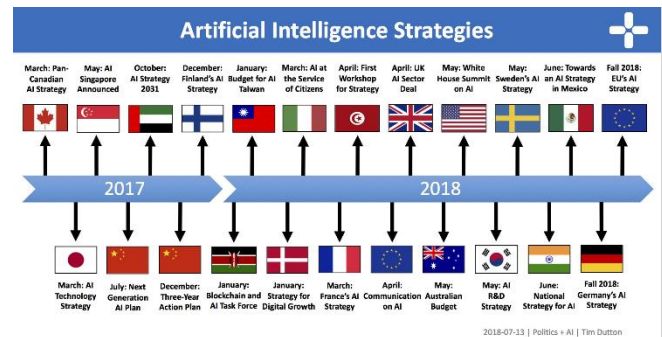
2. Basic strategies

Basic strategies have some pillars such as law and ethics. In accordance to that some works in the EU stated. According to the guidelines of the High-Level Expert Group in the EU, trustworthy AI should be:

- (1) lawful - respecting all applicable laws and regulations
- (2) ethical - respecting ethical principles and values
- (3) robust - both from a technical perspective while taking into account its social environment (<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>)

EU's efforts on these area prevails many countries not only in the EU but also some other countries such as Turkey.

In addition to these rules many governments arrange their own strategies as shown below;



(<https://medium.com/politics-ai/an-overview-of-national-ai-strategies-2a70ec6edfd>)

On the other hand “Good Governance” as commonly means that building functional and effective institutions and using them effectively and “Governance without Government (Rosenau& Czempiel, 1992), advocated a much broader understanding of governance. (Gorwa, 2019)

At that point in contrast to antitrust laws some corporations (such as Facebook, Amazon and Google) may effect governmental decisions as monopolies.

(<http://fortune.com/2019/03/16/google-amazon-antitrust-laws/>)

Basic strategies aspect mainly deals about concepts on ethics and also “critical algorithm studies” (Gillespie & Seaver, 2015)

3. Regulations

From the aspect of law UK is the first example for digital democracy; UK declares on 5th May 2019 4 basic rules for digital democracy;

1. Legislate to introduce a new electoral offence of intimidating a candidate or campaigner during the run up to an election, either in person or online.
2. Legislate to clarify the electoral offence of undue influence of a voter.
3. Commit to implementing a digital imprint regime.
4. Launch a consultation on electoral integrity

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-safeguards-uk-elections>)

At that point it has to be stated that GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is the main arrangement for data privacy in the EU which affects not only civil persons but also Europe based companies.

4. Conclusion

To sum up all these this work mainly aims to discuss data and algorithmic decision processes via giving examples and also stating regulations on digital governance and democracy in the world. As stated below;

“On many platforms, including Facebook, algorithmic manipulations are performed routinely they range from purposes as mundane as deciding the color of a button to decisions as significant as which news article is shown to the public. These decisions are increasingly central to social, political, and civic processes; consequently, the algorithmic harms that may arise increasingly from such computational form a brand new category, including a spectrum of issues from libel to violence” (Tüfekçi, 2015)

References

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