

Leveraging AI in Diplomacy: Enhancing Foreign Policy, National Interest and Digital Diplomacy

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the landscape of diplomacy, fundamentally altering how states conduct foreign relations, public engagement, and policy decision-making. This article investigates the integration of AI into diplomatic practices at operational, tactical, and strategic levels, with a focus on how AI can enhance administrative efficiency, support public diplomacy, and enhance foreign policy. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the study combines an extensive literature review with original survey data from 39 diplomats to address three core research questions: diplomats' perceptions of AI integration, the main barriers and facilitators to AI adoption, and the training needs required for effective AI use. The findings reveal that while diplomats demonstrate strong foundational digital skills and are increasingly adopting AI tools for communication and information management, the uptake of advanced applications such as predictive analytics and cybersecurity remains limited. Key barriers include insufficient training, resource constraints, and ethical and legal concerns, while facilitators involve the perceived benefits of AI for efficiency and strategic engagement. The study highlights a substantial demand for targeted training and institutional support to bridge existing gaps. Ultimately, the research underscores that successful and responsible AI adoption in diplomacy requires ongoing investment in digital competencies, robust governance frameworks, and the development of ethical standards, ensuring that technological advancements translate into more effective, adaptive, and transparent diplomatic practice.

Keywords

AI in diplomacy, AI in foreign policy, Digital diplomacy and national interests, AI in international relations, AI in crisis management and negotiation, AI and public diplomacy, diplomatic training, barriers in digital diplomacy.