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RESEARCH PAPER

AI-Powered Surveillance in China and Its Implications for Global Democracy

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ABSTRACT

This article explores how China's AI-powered surveillance system affects the world, emphasizing how AI reinforces authoritarian rule, stifles criticism, and shapes international standards. Through the integration of technology such as facial recognition, big data analytics, and predictive policing, China facilitates behavioral control and real-time surveillance through online filtering and the Social Credit System. In addition to strengthening control over domestic life, these instruments are disseminated internationally through programs like the Digital Silk Road, which puts democratic institutions at risk, particularly in nations with lax security.Using qualitative methods—including policy analysis, cross-case comparison, and content analysis—this study draws from primary sources like government documents and secondary sources such as academic research and investigative journalism. The article calls for international cooperation to promote ethical AI governance, strengthen legal and institutional protections, and support civil society and independent media in order to counter the spread of AI-enabled authoritarianism. The establishment of global standards for responsible AI use is crucial to upholding democratic values in the digital age. The findings demonstrate the widespread adoption of China's model in fragile democracies, raising serious concerns about privacy, freedom of expression, and democratic participation.

KEYWORDS AI Surveillance, China, Digital Authoritarianism, Global Democracy, Political Control, Human Rights

Introduction

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes a vital part of state governance, China's sophisticated AI-powered surveillance technology plays a significant role in changing democratic structure and human liberties globally. China is spearheading a global revolution in social control and governance through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and state surveillance technologies. AI technologies such as big data analytics, facial recognition, and predictive policing are assisting China in developing a more comprehensive surveillance network that can keep an eye on its citizens in real time. Thus, in addition to possibly impacting global governance and security, these developments will aid in preserving political power domestically (Lin,2024). China is eroding democratic norms globally by exporting its model of digital authoritarianism to other nations, particularly those with weak democratic institutions. Concerns regarding privacy, freedom of expression, and the balance between security and human rights are becoming more and more relevant as AI-enabled surveillance systems become more widely used (Chan&Kan loo,2025).

China's AI-powered surveillance system also demonstrates a comprehensive digital authoritarian strategy that uses new technology to supplement security with political control. By allowing AI to interact with already-existing tools like online censorship, biometric tracking, and the Social Credit System, the CCP has conditioned public behavior and suppressed dissent. Ironically, this paradigm is gaining traction with authoritarian-

hungry regimes and undermining the international front for the defense of democratic values. But more than anything else, China's persistent exporting of its docility norms through tools like the Digital Silk Road will inevitably pose new threats to the international democratic order that it is obstructing. Understanding the potential effects of China's AI-enhanced surveillance on international human rights, governance, and political freedom is crucial (Hou&Fu,2022).

Literature Review

China has established one of the most advanced AI surveillance infrastructures globally, integrating facial recognition, predictive policing, and big data analytics to monitor and control its population. The state employs these tools to maintain political authority, making surveillance not just a domestic control strategy but a demonstration of how artificial intelligence can be used to enforce authoritarian rule. Over the past two decades, China has rapidly grown within the global AI research and development ecosystem, driven by robust technological investments and human capital (Muzaffar & Choudhary, 2017). The 2017 New Generation AI Development Plan solidified China's intent to become the world leader in AI by 2030. Through global R&D collaborations and the Digital Silk Road initiative, China has exported its surveillance technologies to over 47 countries (Kim & Lim, 2021).

The Chinese state plays a central role in AI expansion through strategic planning, state-directed investments, and policy frameworks that prioritize surveillance capabilities. The government's involvement extends beyond domestic use to facilitating global adoption of its technologies, particularly in countries with weak democratic institutions (Allison& Schmidt, 2020) . Surveillance in China is conducted through an intricate network of technologies, including the Social Credit System, real-time camera monitoring, biometric tracking, and algorithmic profiling. These systems enable behavioral control and preemptive identification of dissent, reshaping societal norms through digital governance. One of the most controversial applications of China's AI surveillance is seen in Xinjiang, where the Uyghur Muslim minority has been systematically targeted. Facial recognition and biometric data are used to monitor ethnic minorities, raising serious ethical concerns and global criticism. This region exemplifies the fusion of technological prowess and oppressive governance. (Kerry et al., 2023)

The international export of China's AI surveillance model threatens democratic values such as privacy, freedom of expression, and political participation. Authoritarian and semi-authoritarian regimes adopting these tools risk accelerating democratic backsliding, particularly in fragile democracies across Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. The spread of AI surveillance technologies introduces significant challenges to democratic governance. Issues include the erosion of civil liberties, the normalization of state surveillance, and the weakening of institutional checks and balances. Even within liberal democracies, there are concerns about the misuse of AI tools for political or military purposes. (Morini, 2018)

Democracies have responded with calls for ethical AI governance, greater transparency, and stronger data privacy regulations. The EU's GDPR and similar legislative efforts represent attempts to align technology with democratic norms. However, responses remain fragmented, and there is a pressing need for coordinated international action to counter the global influence of digital authoritarianism (Bjola & Coplen, 2023).

Material and Methods

This basic research qualitative method was used. In which researcher has explored how AI is used to maintain governance structures, suppress dissent, and consolidate power. It examines the impact of AI surveillance across authoritarian, democratic, and hybrid regimes, focusing on civil liberties, electoral integrity, and decision-making. Data sources

include primary materials (government policies, legal frameworks, official reports) and secondary sources (academic works, think-tank analyses, and investigative journalism). The study also analyzes institutional safeguards, resistance strategies, and democratic countermeasures, linking empirical findings to relevant theoretical frameworks.

Results and Discussion

AI-Powered Surveillance in China

There is evidence that Chinese companies have been selling digital surveillance technologies to developing nations, sometimes for authoritarian uses, with some support from the state's credit. However, there is little proof that surveillance equipment sold by Chinese companies is more capable of authoritarianism than equipment sold by non-Chinese companies. Any type of digital infrastructure is referred to as "surveillance technologies" by some academics. Data indicates that Chinese companies are hired by governments in developing nations to construct digital infrastructure. Researchers have estimated the use of AI security in smart cities across 47-65 countries and data integration security platforms in at least 80 countries (Altenhain, 2023).

These technologies can be used for civilian and public safety purposes as well as authoritarian control applications. Some African governments use Chinese technology for surveillance, while others criticize its effectiveness. Chinese surveillance technologies are more likely to be used for authoritarian control than those sold by non-Chinese companies. The quality of governance in developing countries determines whether governments will deploy such technology for repressive purposes. No reports of Chinese state pressure on developing countries to adopt surveillance technologies have been found. (Gravett, 2022)

Development and Expansion of AI Surveillance in China

China's historical focus on technology following the economic reforms of the late 1970s is linked to its advancements in the field of artificial intelligence surveillance. These changes prioritized science and technology over the quick development of other areas, such as surveillance technologies. The older traditions of high science and, more recently, the economic reforms that established priorities for science and technology after the late 1970s are the sources of the impressive advancements in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) in support of surveillance in China. (Zeng, 2020)

Beginning in the early 2000s, China's surveillance initiatives, "Skynet" and "Sharp Eyes," sought to establish a nationwide surveillance camera network. China claimed to have more than 20 million cameras with real-time facial recognition capabilities by 2018. With the help of companies like Huawei, Hikvision, Dahua, and ZTE, advanced AI technologies have been developed, positioning China as a key player in the field of AI surveillance. However, the extensive use of AI and facial recognition technologies in places like Xinjiang raises human rights issues. China's response to public health crises like COVID-19 has also been influenced by its AI surveillance model. The goal of recent regulations is to strike a balance between data privacy and technological advancement. (Zu, 2024)

Technology advancements like facial recognition, big data analytics, and predictive policing have had a big impact on fields like security, law enforcement, and personal identification. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are used in facial recognition technology to identify people with high accuracy; however, privacy, equity, and civil liberties issues have been raised. Through the analysis of massive image datasets, big data analytics increases the efficiency and accuracy of facial recognition, resulting in more robust and dependable identification systems. (Deng, 2023)

The predictive policing makes use of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data analytics to forecast criminal activity in specific regions, allowing law enforcement organizations to allocate resources more efficiently. In this manner, data-harnessed AI analyzes past crimes to identify patterns and trends, enabling them to forecast crime hotspots and strategically place employees in areas with even higher likelihoods of criminal activity. This plan aims to increase public safety while taking proactive measures against areas that are more likely to be the scene of criminal activity. Most significantly, though, the growing application of predictive policing sparks ongoing discussions about privacy invasions, racial bias, and the general decline in public confidence in law enforcement. (Berk, 2021)

The Role of the Chinese Government

The use of AI in Chinese governance is a hotly debated topic in the media around the world. For many years, numerous tech blogs and analyses have closely monitored the evolution of China's high-tech surveillance state. AI-powered state surveillance has been a hot topic for a while now, and this trend is not limited to China, other nations have already begun implementing AI in governance. However, the Chinese government's significant investment in AI for authoritarian purposes is what makes its practices so intriguing. The peculiarly Chinese style of AI governance has emerged from a primary need to preserve (if not strengthen) its authoritarian rule**.** First off, China's so-called "domestic security budget" enables the state apparatus to invest in cutting-edge technology to strengthen its security forces without the checks and balances provided by a robust legislative branch. The state has every incentive to increase its control over society in order to maintain its authoritarian rule, and one of its tools is digital technology. (Buckley, 2019)

The events have significant worldwide ramifications for China's foreign engagement in the Majority World, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative. These political-economic arrangements have made it easier for some regimes to adopt the Chinese model of digital authoritarianism. This model may gain more traction in weak and vulnerable states as it is exported to the outside world. This suspension of regular politics may be made possible by the COVID-19 pandemic. Evidence points to a higher likelihood of pandemics, which is why more efficient surveillance technology is required. AI has the ability to quickly and effectively analyze large amounts of data, which will help decision-makers better respond to, control, and potentially even stop infectious disease outbreaks.

Consequently, there will be less damage, disturbance, and loss of life. It should come as no surprise that the COVID-19 pandemic speed up the digitization of public health initiatives and gave rise to a new class of technological solutions to combat the pandemic, given the potential of AI-backed tools. Numerous public, private, and state actors have hurried to implement these new tools globally, the majority of them have been aimed at contact tracing, which is the process of determining which individuals an infected person has recently interacted with. AI systems have the potential to exacerbate already-existing disparities and maintain them. AI surveillance capabilities could be exported to other regimes by global powers like China, who could then abuse them. These regimes may be able to increase surveillance systems thanks to COVID-19, which would weaken democracy and marginalize those who are already marginalized. In order to guarantee a just global order, this issue must be resolved. (Song et all,, 2022)

The Chinese government has created a thorough legal and policy framework to support and regulate AI surveillance in order to successfully strike a balance between the development of technological advancements and their ethical and data privacy considerations. For example, China passed the PIPL in 2021, which imposes severe penalties for noncompliance with their laws and demands consent for the collection of personal data, including faces. Additionally, the Cyberspace Administration of China introduced regulations in March 2025 that forbid mandatory facial recognition identification and mandate clear signage and alternative options in areas where such technology is used. This

makes it clear that China wants to continue advancing AI technology use by battling public opposition to the ethical and privacy issues the technology raises. (Utegen & Rakhmetov,2023)

Mechanisms of Surveillance and Social Control

As more government agencies adopt social surveillance programs and develop technologies based on interacting with private databases, there is a need for some regulatory framework regarding the collection of data by private entities and the access and use of personal information by law enforcement and government agencies. In this regard, data protection laws can be crucial in lowering the volume of information gathered by private organizations, which will subsequently indirectly affect the data accessible for public social control purposes. This challenge appears to be addressed, at least, in the EU Proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation. Protecting citizens from the dangers of social control is insufficient, personal data collected for law enforcement needs to be regulated and controlled as well. In this regard, the EU's proposal for a law enforcement sector directive is the first attempt to harmonize and reinforce citizens' rights. (Mantelero, 20213)

In this context, some researchers have identified possible issues with data integrity in predictive policing systems. According to researchers, historical biases and civil rights violations present in police data contribute to "dirty data," which further reinforces inaccurate forecasts into structural injustices. In the same vein, researchers observe that predictive policing systems are always contextual, meaning that their execution and results are inevitably heavily influenced by the bureaucratic contexts in which they are used. Accordingly, predictive policing perpetuates the current power structures and prejudices by failing to take into account the everyday environments. (Malek, 2022)

At the same time, there are problems with online speech and the expanding methods of Internet censorship, such as China's Great Firewall. According to Cheung (2011), in such a setting, Chinese judges and attorneys are able to identify a framework for their work and, by themselves, paint a nuanced picture of the interaction between state-instituted censorship and the legal profession. As a result, this illustrates how difficult it is for people to exercise their right to free speech in a highly restricted digital environment. Indeed, instances like the recent one where China announced that it was cracking down on memes and puns that were used to denigrate austere subjects online highlight the state's attempts to enforce more stringent regulations while maintaining digital respect by focusing on linguistic innovation and avoiding the use of conventional censorship techniques. They reveal the extent to which the government uses the most recent innovations to stifle free expression and promote ideological homogeneity in public discourse. (Ban, 2020)

Case Studies of AI Surveillance in China's Xinjiang Region

Human rights have been violated as a result of China's use of artificial intelligence to counteract religious extremism in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. These technologies have been used by the Chinese government to monitor Uyghurs both digitally and physically, which has an impact on people's lives. Information about the region is scarce due to internet censorship, and media coverage and human rights organizations are important sources. Three major themes emerged from in depth interviews with Uyghurs who departed Xinjiang in the last ten years, the effects of surveillance and oppression on individuals, policies of oppression, and technological surveillance and control mechanisms. The Chinese government restricts communication and the use of apps like WeChat, which lack privacy and data protection, by controlling internet access across the country.

In essence, this application uses artificial intelligence technologies to scan users' devices for potentially harmful content, warn users if any has been found, and analyze

everything from the device memory to WeChat posts. According to the data collected from respondents, police patrols confiscate people's phones at station locations, airports, and checkpoints positioned along the streets. It's unclear whether artificial intelligence technology is actually utilized by the police, who plug the phone into a cable and check it. Participants don't appear to be interested in other Chinese applications besides Clean-net Bodyguard. Additionally, participants mentioned that other apps might be spy apps that the government uses for digital monitoring. (Lee, 2023)

Under the scrutiny of this bold spying device, the Uyghurs' individual activities touch on nearly everything done online, including a person's posts, messages, and browsing history. Uyghurs engage in punishing online activities, such as interrogating others, reciting the names of people detained in education camps, and locking up other Uyghurs. Another significant and significant factor in this online surveillance is artificial intelligence.

Constant physical surveillance is another aspect of Uyghur daily life that they could tolerate at any given time. This type of surveillance is carried out using surveillance cameras, facial recognition software, frequent police checks, and ID reading devices, according to the information gathered from interviews. First of all, there are security cameras at building entrances, mosques, schools, streets, and avenues. The number of these cameras that are equipped with biometric features cannot be ascertained.

But in addition to cameras, facial recognition software is also widely used in this area. In addition to routine checks at airports and train stations, facial recognition systems are also found at gas stations, building entrances, and other locations. Artificial intelligence technology produces facial recognition systems. These systems are overused by China to keep the Uyghurs under control. Data collection from Uyghurs is a key component of the surveillance regime that the Chinese government is implementing in the Uyghur region through ID scanning in an effort to bolster state control. In order to obtain information, the government gathers biometric data and intimidates Uyghurs overseas. In schools, Uyghurs are compelled to follow a communist ideology and are required to write essays about atheism and loyalty. Uyghurs are prohibited from using words that allude to ethnic identity or nationalism, as well as religious terms. Assimilation is China's objective, and Uyghurs are taught Chinese rather than their mother tongue. (Leibold, 2020)

The systematic monitoring and repression practices of the Chinese government have had a negative psychological, behavioral, and social impact on Uyghurs. Even when traveling overseas, interviewees reported feeling constantly watched, afraid, and anxious. They believe that the use of technology in the future will lead to a dystopia. Uyghurs take precautions and self-censor to avoid being discovered. Since communication puts them in danger, they usually don't interact with locals at all. Privacy violations, communication, internet, and personal data monitoring, and the use of tracking systems aided by artificial intelligence are examples of human rights violations. Practices of religion are severely restricted, and freedom of expression is hampered by the internet and the fear of constant surveillance. In addition to violating their cultural identity, the prohibition of Uyghur language, education, and religious activities also forbids discrimination. (Asif, 2024)

In order to create smart cities, artificial intelligence (AI) is crucial, especially for social governance and urban monitoring. With AI-enhanced monitoring, London, for instance, recently expanded its CCTV infrastructure in an effort to combat rising crime rates and antisocial behavior. Local councils have spent a lot of money on surveillance systems, some claim that thousands of AI-based cameras are necessary for public safety in order to promptly detect threats or criminal activity. Critics are demanding stringent laws pertaining to the moral application of the technologies because they fear privacy violations or abuses by law enforcement. (Welsh, 2009)

AI is working against journalism and political activism in the sphere of dissent and media. According to a report by the House Subcommittee on Government Weaponization, the federal government has occasionally created and employed AI-enabled tools for censorship and mass surveillance. These instruments raise concerns about government overreach because they have the potential to stifle dissent and deny people their right to free speech. In order to prevent the misuse of AI to erode free speech and democracy, the report details global cases of AI-facilitated censorship during the COVID-19 pandemic and urges immediate action to ensure transparency and regulation.

Implications for Global Democracy

In this sense, AI's impact on democracy is a hazy area that simultaneously presents opportunities and risks. AI has the potential to improve public services and give citizens direct input into democratic processes in a number of ways. Duberry makes the case for using AI technology to enhance public services and foster interactive citizen-government relationships. But these procedures also create risks, chiefly related to data privacy and surveillance. Certain AI applications in public surveillance systems undermine the relationships of trust between the public and the government and could result in possible abuses of authority and violations of individual liberties. (Jungherr, 2023)

Democracies are also at risk from the rise of disinformation driven by AI. Moreover, AI is making it possible for information to spread via social media bots and targeted political messages, we can see how this is resulting in an uninformed and politically biased populace. Such acts might worsen already-existing social divisions and erode public confidence in democratic institutions. Researchers also talked about the difficulties posed by AI-generated fake news and the increased censorship issues that arise in educational research as a result of it. Critical media literacy is crucial for building a defense against misleading information. (Kaplan, 2020)

This goes beyond simply using AI to further political ends and even skirting ethical issues. Accordingly, Rayhan explains how one can use or abuse and for political ends, like influencing political narratives and voter behavior. As a result, it poses a fundamental threat to democracy. Further possibilities for AI applications for widespread surveillance and censorship are also suggested by reports from the House Subcommittee on Government Weaponization. Therefore, it is imperative that strong ethical standards and legal frameworks be in place to protect AI technologies from manipulation that might violate civil liberties or stifle dissent.

To address the risks associated with AI's use in governance and democratic processes, robust governance frameworks are necessary. The efforts to harmonize policies in order to uphold democratic values are made more challenging by the fragmented nature of AI regulation, both internationally and in Europe. According to the authors, if appropriate measures are not taken, AI's explosive growth could have disastrous effects on democratic institutions. In their discussion of the various ways that sophisticated AI systems could affect democracy, emphasize the need for a variety of interdisciplinary interventions in order to understand and address these issues. Their research emphasizes that the development of AI must be a benefit to democratic governance rather than a drawback, and that this requires proactive policymaking.

Challenges to Democratic Norms and Governance

Democratic digital sovereignty will take many forms in the years to come. In this sense, there's no need to start from scratch, it basically moves "human rights" discussions online. Sovereignty and individual freedom are two things that democratic digital sovereignty must balance. Control over information flows, mining, and storage, Almost 92% of the data in the western world is currently stored in the United States. These democratic

nations would never permit 92% of their cloud data to reside in China or Russia, which shows that storage location is a matter of sovereign interest. In order to avoid dependence on either China or the United States, France and Germany begin with their European cloud project.

Many other countries are feeling the strain of changing foreign policies on a minute-by-minute basis, particularly as Chinese companies are expanding into the African cloud market. In places like Southeast Asia, the services of Chinese tech behemoths like Alibaba are already advantageous. Numerous beneficial civil society initiatives, such as the Internet and Jurisdiction Policy Network, have started to look into these problems. Policy scholars should break down each of these domains to create more detailed explanations of how nations can screen and engage with external digital realms, and civil society should keep working toward recognizing that there are boundaries for data storage, analysis, and flows.

There are significant differences between the idea of surveillance in democratic states and how it is used in those states to improve national security and public safety while posing a challenge to striking a balance between the demands of the state and its citizens. Therefore, the use of these technologies by democratic countries against their own citizens, the political culture of democratic nations that is, the fundamental principles, values, and customs that have long governed them is seriously threatened by surveillance technology aimed at citizens. In short, those surveillance technologies create a conflict between the pact that a democratic government has reached with its people regarding civil liberties and privacy. State must take immediate action to address this issue because technology is developing at a rate never seen before, which affects how these nations and their people perceive their political cultures. (Frosio, 2024)

Democratic states, on the other hand, use surveillance technologies to promote national security and public safety, the challenge is how to fairly balance the interests of the state and individuals. Therefore, the surveillance technologies used by democratic states against their citizens will be the main topic of this article. The democratic understanding of freedom from state interference in people's lives is the opposite of the use of surveillance technologies against citizens, which violates the political culture of democratic states those deeply held beliefs, values, and norms that have come to define those states. Democratic governments should therefore act quickly to resolve this dispute because the rapid pace of technological development is creating a growing gap between how these states view themselves and how their respective citizens view themselves through the nuanced lens of their common political culture (Singh et al., 2025).

Responses from Democratic Societies

Since the Russian Federation's disinformation campaigns during the hybrid war against Ukraine in 2014 the same campaigns that were thought to have influenced the Brexit referendum, the French presidential elections in 2017, and the European Parliament elections in 2019 disinformation has thus gained attention in the European Union since the mid-2010s. Secondly the EU's fight against foreign meddling and misinformation would be governed by the ideas of militant and defensive democracy. The ideas of militant and defensive democracy provide a useful theoretical framework for examining both external and internal threats to democracy.

The problem of disinformation has gotten significantly worse since the annexation of Crimea in 2014. It jeopardizes public welfare and democratic processes. While preserving fundamental democratic values like free expression, the EU tackles this issue with a mix of strategic alliances, regulatory action, and media literacy programs. The Code of Practice on Disinformation and the Internet Services Act are two important laws that seek to maintain openness and make online companies responsible. Initiatives like the Rapid Alert System

and the East StratCom Task Force also demonstrate how the European Union uses a hybrid warfare approach to fight disinformation (Andrea,et.al, 2024).

The ethical debate over AI surveillance has expanded considerably in many democracies. It is meant to help identify and prevent crime when combined with public safety initiatives, such as the construction of an AI-powered CCTV network in London. Concerns over potential privacy violations and the possibility of abuse by law enforcement, however, accompany this advancement. Critics contend that while such technology may improve security, it also makes continuous monitoring easier, which is against people's rights. Strict regulations are necessary to guarantee the moral application of AI monitoring systems and guard against exploitation, according to civil rights organizations. (Fontes et al.,2022).

International organizations have been quite concerned about AI monitoring. For example, algorithmic video surveillance worries Amnesty International since it can result in bias and privacy violations. It encourages in-depth analyses and candid discussions about the potential social effects of such technologies. Because AI has the potential to exacerbate racial biases and highlight the detrimental nature of police activities, the UN has also emphasized the need for accountability and transparency in its deployment (Mensah, 2023).

The result shows that AI is successfully used by the Chinese government to establish control particularly big data monitoring, facial recognition, and predictive analytics to uphold official control and quell political dissent.Thus, the Social Credit System and the surveillance occurring in Xinjiang demonstrate how AI effectively permits near-total population control in an authoritarian state like China. Because these AI capabilities enable real-time behavioral surveillance and preemptive policing, they significantly limit the freedom with which these people may move and express themselves. Through the Digital Silk Road in particular, the Chinese surveillance model has spread throughout Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe, where it is being used in many nations with weaker democratic institutions.The absence of accountability and transparency in these situations hastens the decline of democracy in the recipient countries. As a result, the globalization of China's AI-based surveillance app is significantly threatening democratization, especially in weak democracies, and altering the notions of digital rights, privacy, and state-citizen relations. Regulatory agencies, moral AI guidelines, and public scrutiny are safeguards against AI abuse in more robust democracies. To regulate AI surveillance technologies, international collaboration and widely recognized standards are desperately needed. Due to the excessive speed of technological advancement, the enforcement of AI regulations is now a disjointed and uneven process.The advancement of digital authoritarianism will need to be stopped through focused group action, awareness-raising, and investment in democratic AI alternatives.

Conclusion

China's AI support for surveillance has come to strengthen the government's hold on its citizens by utilizing common practices like big data, facial recognition, and predictive policing. While further this state security and stability, studies also show how these extend the frontiers of political control and repression way beyond the pillars of democracy. The report asserts that these improvements have been made both domestically and internationally, establishing the norm for technology-enabled administration that lacks transparency or control by exporting China's monitoring model to other authoritarian registry-prospecting nations.

According to the demographics, China's AI surveillance systems will become increasingly integrated with AI-informed governance and law enforcement decision-making as these developments progress. All of this is in violation of international democratic norms since these nondemocratic governments will continue to use these tools to stifle political

opponents' protests. Democracies must enact legislation pertaining to data privacy and the moral application of artificial intelligence while uniting nations behind a common goal in order to combat this new digital authoritarianism. Promoting ethical AI standards, openness, and regulatory frameworks will help prevent AI from being used as a tool for political repression. Such organizations must engage on this competitive testament against China

Recommendations

- International coordination becomes essential due to the growing impact of AI mimicking authoritarian traits. This situation aligns with ongoing global debates concerning AI laws, digital rights, and transnational accountability that include the UN, OECD, and others.
- Laws that protect people's rights and privacy should be put in place by democratic governments to facilitate the development and application of AI surveillance.
- AI surveillance raises important ethical and legal issues, including invasions of privacy, restrictions on free speech, and due process violations. AI systems ought to be developed with strong ethical and legal safeguards against abuse.
- 4.Human rights due diligence must be integrated into AI development to ensure that technologies do not adversely impact democratic values, according to the Human Rights, Democracy, and Rule of Law Assurance Framework for AI Systems.

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