

# Technology as a Silent Factor in International Relations

## I Introduction

Technology is impacting international relations in one way or other ways. It only depends on the national interests of the states, and their motivations behind.

## B How Technology Shapes International Relations

1-B Regulations of New Trade Policies of States

2-B Changing the Hard Power Diplomacy to Soft Power Diplomacy

3B Opportunity to Conduct New War Tactics

4-B Fueling the Culture of Misinformation Among States

5-B Aligning Governments to Mitigate Climate Impacts

6-B Glorification of Country's Image to Promote Business Tourism

7-B Providing Platforms to Connect People Worldwide

8-B Changing Perceptions of People by Throwing Light on Plight

9-B Potential to Change Current World Order

10-B New Wars for the Procurement of Technology

11-B Technology; A way to break ice between arch rivals

**C Conclusion**

Technology, a word often used in today's debates regarding its impacts on global system. It strengthened its roots in the mid 20th century following the World War II, and its procurement was the central point throughout the Cold War. However, in today's world its advancement is the foreign policy agenda of many states, they know it is the only power which can shape international relations in many ways. It has ability to change current global order by providing one state enough ability to overthrow its arch rivals. It has power to change power politics by changing hard power diplomacy to soft one. Furthermore, many countries have changed their trade policies to counter the growing hegemony of other state's technology. Moreover,

It aligns governments to work together against the existential threat of climate change. However, it has also changed the conducts of wars and one cannot deny that it would be a reason of future wars. Technology is impacting international relation in one way or other ways. It depends only on the national interests of states.

The regulations of new trade policies of states to curtail the hegemony of other state's technological advancement, shaping relations between two countries.

It now has been the policy of many states to stop the inflow of technology of other countries especially their arch rivals. The allowing the technology of any state creates dependency on seller states which can impact

their relations. For instance, Trump's America first policy barred the imports of Chinese cars in American market. He imposed 100 percent tariff on Chinese electric vehicles and initiated "Trade War". Trump knew that American markets can not compete Chinese counter-part and its initiative changed relations not only Americans but also some European states with China.

Furthermore, technology is changing the hard power diplomacy to soft power. The reason of this behavior of states is to curtail the future threats of technology. The newly emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a central role in changing current scenario. European Union was first regional organization which took some initiatives by making (AI) act. Further

more, EU this behavior compelled United States to change its diplomacy with China. Both countries were present at the AI Risk Summit in England in 2023. The result of this engagements came in May 2024 when both countries pledged to make shared language of AI in case of war. This strategic change in US diplomacy and relations between US and China is only due to technology which brought two arch rivals at discussion table.

Moreover, technology provided an opportunity to conduct new war tactics by giving remote to operator sitting in a chilled room. In current scenario, there are multiple conflicts are happening throughout the world, however, the most prominent are two; Palestine and Ukraine. Both aggressors - Israel

and Russia (USSR) are using world best technology to gain some victories. Israel is using "lavender" to identify potential targets in Occupied as well as Gaza territories. Furthermore, it is using Gospel to identify so-called potential building to expand its terrorism. On other hand Russia, is using ~~Unarmed~~<sup>manned</sup> armed vehicles against Ukrainian troops. May be in future, these technologies can provide deterrance and would help in shaping relations of states.

Technology is also fueling the culture of misinformation among states through social media platform or other communication devices. It is used as a warfare formally known as 5<sup>th</sup> generation warfare to manipulate public opinions against states and its institutions. States sponsored misinformation is used to destabilize other states both politically and socially. in order to execute

their unethical motivations. The report of International News tells how Russia manipulated US elections in 2017. Furthermore, US recent initiative to ban TikTok from country blaming China for spreading fake news using the platform. These propagandas by using technology causing trust deficit among countries and shaping their relations accordingly.

Technology has also aligned governments to mitigate climate impacts as it is posing existential threat to the world. Many countries are now working together to initiate renewable energy projects and some of them selling carbon credits to other countries to fulfil their financial needs. There is no doubt that these climate crisis are a reason behind gathering countries on a single platform such as Paris Agreement to adopt those technologies which have ability to keep global

rising temperature below 1.5 C°. In this scenario, recent Pakistani deal with Japanese to procure early warning systems. Pakistan with the help of Japan establishing 45 Telemetry system and 5 Automatic Weather System to upgrade its climate resilience. These technologies procurement measures will further strengthen their relations through investment in other climate resilience projects.

Furthermore, technology helps in glorification of country's image to promote business tourism. The foreign direct investment is a backbone of any country economy and this can only be possible when country's international image is being acceptable. Technology such as social media helps in this scenario by portraying soft image of country. The report of European Union Tax Agency suggests that Pakistani people since 2022 have invested 13

billion dollars in Dubai, a country best known for business, tourism and investments.

Not only just Pakistani, but also Indian and English people have invested billions of dollars in Dubai. This huge inflow of business is due to the Dubai global peaceful image and liberty glorify by technology making it best business tourism city all over the world.

Technology is also providing Platforms to connect people world-wide. Today is the period of globalization that made world as global village, and it is only technology that fueled the process to spread more rapidly. Now people connect to the world in a second and share their ideas, cultures and informations. Furthermore, platforms like Fiverr, Amazon, Alibaba are also providing the opportunity to sell their products world wide and making dependent their customers

from different countries on their websites.

The report of State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan exported 2.5 billion of Information Technology in 2023, making millions of customers world wide. These IT exports make friendly relations with countries which depend on Pakistani exports. Technology is not only providing business opportunities but also establishing friendly relations throughout the world.

It helps in changing perceptions of people by throwing light on plights of oppressed masses. The media of any country is often censored and shows only those things which are allowed it to do so. However, social media has changed this traditional practice, it can uncover those things where state's media can not reach. The war in Gaza has further strengthened the roots of social media as Israel media before ~~conflict completely dominated western~~

~~media and allowed only~~ conflict used to spread only those informations which were in its favour. The students protest in western societies against the atrocities of Israel, especially the students of Colombia University who turned against government for second time since Vietnam War. However, thanks to technology which helped in changing people's perceptions against Israel and showcased the plight of people of Palestine.

Technology has potential to change current world order. The arm race which was initiated in cold war has turned its aims towards more advanced technology to use in wars. Russia is willing to weaponize space while US is making an umbrella of defense around its country to ~~minimize~~ minimize the threats of North Korea's Inter-

Continental Ballistic Missile, at the same time, containing China hegemony in the South China Sea. The reports of SIRT suggests that China's AI powered Surveillance System and Electron Warfare system provide defensive advantage to China against US in the region. China hypersonic missile has capability to destroy US's jet carrier in a second. These developments in technology show that it has potential to change current world order.

New wars for the procurement of technology are also possible in the future, and it may be happen in South China sea. Taiwan, world most sophisticated and cheaper chips exporter that are used in electronic products — from ~~the~~ home use to war heads — is one of the reason between great powers rivalry. As it is most valuable to both China and America for

their future ambitions. China does not want to lose it at any cost and it has also threatened America against any involvement in One-China policy. The growing presence of US naval ships and its drills with China's neighbouring countries, Japan, South Korea and Philippines, show that America would not lag behind to defend Taiwan cause and China would not tolerate its involvement. However, the game for the procurement of technology can lead to full fledged war.

Last but not least, technology can give a way to break an ice between arch rivals United States and Russia (USSR). Even during cold war both country were engaged in bilateral agreement to limit newly emerged Strategic weapons. Both parties were well known about the indiscriminate impacts of atomic bombs. The renegot-

iation of New START Treaty in 2021 to extend its expiry date till 2026. Showed some ice break between two.

However, in 2023, Putin, suspended the adherence of treaty's obligations following Russia - Ukraine War. But, they must give regards to technology which brought two arch rivals at same platform.

At the end, technology is one of the most important factor that regulates inter-state's relations. It depends on the national interests of the states, how they allow technology to decide their relations. Technology, from the war zones to the discussion tables, impacts the foreign policies of the states. However, in the age of chaos, where non-traditional security threats posing existential threat to nation-states, it is technology that helps to mitigate them or even compels states to be ready for the worst case scenario.