



Artificial Intelligence In Strategic Defense Cooperation: Analyzing The Pakistan-Russia Partnership in A Multipolar World

Dr. Syed Shuja Uddin

Assist Prof, Department of International Relations, The Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology. dr.shuja.ir@fuuast.edu.pk
<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-8359-9915>

Dr. Muhammad Irfan

Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology, Karachi. erfanaziz@fuuast.edu.pk
<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-9380-6861>

Mr. Muneeb Aurangzeb

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of International Relations, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology, Karachi. muneeb.ir@fuuast.edu.pk
<https://orcid.org/0009-0003-0580-3574>

Abstract

This research paper will highlight the necessity of Artificial intelligence in Pakistan and Russia's defense ties and broader security cooperation concerning changes in the global political situation. This study discusses and explains how AI is going to change national security dynamics and AI warfare is the future of national security. This work will analyze the potential roles of AI and the functions of global security challenges and opportunities. Qualitative research methods will use to explain strategic collaborations in defense, energy sector cooperation, and regional connectivity. Structural realism defines and analyses concepts, such as balance of power, security dilemma, defensive realism, chain gaining, and bandwagon in the context of emerging powers in the weak unipolar regime and the increase in the complexities of the multiplex world order. Additionally Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) also discuss providing a gateway to a new era of relations between both states in international frameworks. The strategic defense bonds between Pakistan and Russia is inevitable to the national interests of both states and regional peace and stability. National interest is the constant element in international relations and derive states to formulate relations accordingly. The goal of the research is to find out the opportunities for cooperation that will strengthen the regional power and prepare counter policy or doctrine for AI warfare.

Keywords: Pakistan, Russia, Artificial intelligence, Structural realism, Multiplex world order, SCO, EAEU, and AI warfare.

1.1 Introduction

The modern international relations are marked by the high rates of technological progress and the change of the distribution of power bringing about new transformation of security politics in the countries (World Economic Forum, 2016)¹. Pakistan and Russia with different but converging foreign policy agendas

¹ World Economic Forum. (2016). The Fourth Industrial Revolution: what it means and how to respond. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2016/01/the-fourth-industrial-https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505644> 1



have gradually tried to enhance their defense ties (Dawn, 2024)². As Sammons (2023)³ and Happer and Petterson (2023)⁴ noted AI as a disruptor in warfare and security has given new dimensions for their partnership (Anadolu Agency, 2024)⁵. AI'S Roles in the Defense Systems is a quickly becoming one of the most critical areas of modern warfare as well as military strategy and intelligence, facts that can be underpinned by the following findings;

Thus, this academic work aims to analyze the complex relationship of Pakistan and Russia in defense cooperation with references to AI. This is an analysis of these ties in the context of the structural realism viewpoints of the power balance, security issues and the multi polar system. Based on an analysis of cooperation in the defence and energy industries in critical regions and relevant connectivity initiatives, this paper underlines the role of AI cooperation in building stability and countering threats in the region and globally. The findings seek to present some understanding regarding the application of AI for national benefit and development of counter-strategies to the progression of AI warfare.

1.1 Overview of Pakistan-Russia Defense Relations

The Soviet Academy of Science and Pakistan, which were revelries with aggressive attitude during the Cold War period, have come to a modern framework of cooperation. Currently, there is a relative improvement of relations as both countries gained common interest in contributing to security within the region (Ali & Javed, 2024)⁶. This change intensified ahead of the Pakistani accession to the SCO and deeper bi-lateral cooperation and partnership in defense and counter-terrorism (ISSI, 2024)⁷.

Strategic cooperation has been enhanced in the form of exercises, arms import/export and delegations and ministerial visits. For instance, the sale of helicopters and air defense systems demonstrates a common concern in strengthening up the Pakistani defense capabilities (ResearchGate, n.d.)⁸. The current geopolitical changes in South Asia energy of the partnership between India and the United States has also brought Pakistan and Russia together with

[revolution-what-it-means-and-how-to-respond/](#)

² Dawn. (2024). Pakistan, Russia sign MoU for cooperation in multiple sectors. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1859919>

³ Sammons, A. (2023). AI in warfare: Transforming military strategies. *Journal of Defense Studies*, 15(2), 45-67.

⁴ Happer, C., & Petterson, J. (2023). The disruptive potential of artificial intelligence in modern security. *International Security Review*, 29(4), 112-130.

Anadolu Agency. (2024). Russia, Pakistan discuss strategic stability, military use of AI. Retrieved from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/russia-pakistan-discuss-strategic-stability-military-use-of-ai/3131683>

⁵ Anadolu Agency. (2024). Russia, Pakistan discuss strategic stability, military use of AI. Retrieved from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/russia-pakistan-discuss-strategic-stability-military-use-of-ai/3131683>

⁶ Ali, U., & Javed, T. (2024). Pakistan-Russia Emerging Cooperation. *Margalla Papers 2024 (Issue-I)*, 141-160

⁷ Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). (2024). ISSI hosts Round Table on "Pakistan-Russia Relations Amid Changing Global World Order". Retrieved September 13, 2024, from <https://issi.org.pk/press-release-issi-hosts-round-table-on-pakistan-russia-relations-amid-changing-global-world-order/>.

⁸ "The Evolution of Russia-Pakistan Relations." ResearchGate. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372657559_The_Evolution_of_Russia-Pakistan_Relations.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505644> 2



commonalities of concern as terrorism and regional stability (The Diplomat, 2024)⁹.

1.2 AI in National and Global Security Contexts

Advanced technology in the shape of Artificial intelligence has posed as partial and disruptive tool in the global security, altering established norms of warfare and introducing new methodologies in including threat identification mechanisms, decision and force management as well as the actual force multipliers in the form of AI operated autonomous machine.(RUSI, 2024)¹⁰. AI's uses in defense involve prediction analysis and analytical, hacking, overseeing, and building of four- dimensional (vehicle, surface vessels, sub merged vessels and aerial) Meta intelligence war machines, machines. These technologies are changing the nature of military operations and the concept of modern geopolitical competition.

In the national security context, situations are better understood and managed through the use of AI to meet emerging security threats effectively. In the case of Pakistan and Russia, ensuring the integration of artificial intelligence into defense systems enables countries to deter threats and protect them from emerging asymmetric threats while establishing strategic parity in a risky geographical area (ISSI, 2024)¹¹. However, proliferation and the concern for the use of AI technologies themselves remain and the ethical question of autonomous weapon systems are not avoided (Belfer Center, 2024)¹².

AI also transforms border protection through first-class surveillance and biometric identification as well as applying intelligent vehicle technology in the defense system. This raises the level of predictive analysis supplemented with intelligence data collection through progressively sophisticated machines (ISSI, 2024). Nonetheless, there is great concern due to lack of informative and efficient measures for preventing misuse of AI tools as well as to guarantee the supremacy of human leadership in uncompromising decision-making processes (White House, 2024)¹³.

⁹ Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). (2024). ISSI hosts Round Table on "Pakistan-Russia Relations Amid Changing Global World Order". Retrieved September 13, 2024, from <https://issi.org.pk/press-release-issi-hosts-round-table-on-pakistan-russia-relations-amid-changing-global-world-order/>.

¹⁰ RUSI. (2024). Artificial Intelligence (AI) and National Security. Retrieved from <https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/topics/artificial-intelligence-ai-and-national-security>.

¹¹ ISSI. (2024). ISSI hosts Seminar on "Artificial Intelligence and National Security". Retrieved September 13, 2024, from <https://issi.org.pk/press-release-issi-hosts-seminar-on-artificial-intelligence-and-national-security/>.

¹² Belfer Center. (2024). Artificial Intelligence and National Security. Retrieved from <https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/artificial-intelligence-and-national-security>

¹³ White House. (2024). Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Fulfill National Security Objectives. Retrieved October 24, 2024, from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/10/24/memorandum-on-advancing-the-united-states-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence-harnessing-artificial-intelligence-to-fulfill-national-security-objectives-and-fostering-the-safety-security/>.



1.3 Structural Realism and Its Implications on Security

Structural realism, or neorealism is a useful lens for the study of I.R. since it paints the picture of the international system as anarchic and suggests that the accumulation of power is the only sure way towards survival. According to Kenneth Waltz (1979)¹⁴, since the international system is anarchic all states must seek their security through power politics. In this context, ideas where balance of power, security dilemma and defensive realism play a major role for explaining strategic actions of states.

The relations of asymmetrical power or bipolar power are more suitable in understanding the relations of Pakistan and Russia, as both the countries want to check the dominance of other powers like United States and China. The major theme of Waltz work (1979)¹⁵ based on the balance of threats and power balances, asserts that states exist under conditions of mutual uncertainty of the other's designs and strength; this creates security dilemma that require collective efforts to manage mutual risks. They pop up from the key tenet within defensive realism which depicts the necessity of preserving stability and security in a certain particular sphere, including a number of world areas which are characterized by conflicts and rivalry (Posen, 1993)¹⁶.

Through engaging with structural realism when understanding the subject of Pakistan-Russia defense relations this paper examines how certain instruments such as AI can be used in pursuit of strategic gains amid the challenges of the multiplex structure of the world system. As have rightly pointed out by John Mearsheimer (2001)¹⁷: In a world where states exist in anarchy each state exists for itself and will do everything possible to make sure that it survives beyond the others. This view of the world highlights the ability of AI to shape state action within this strategic environment

2. The Changing Global Political Landscape

After the Cold War, the geopolitics has changed with all the power distribution from the sole superpower, the USA, to the multiplex world comprising of many states and other actors with different levels of power in which the cooperation with other like-minded states and multilateral systems are perhaps encouraged more by international laws (Omar, 2023¹⁸; IDEA Publishers, 2017)¹⁹. This transition has been due to the shift in power of new generations that counter dominant western powers (CSCR, 2023)²⁰.

¹⁴ Waltz, K. (1979). *Theory of International Politics*. Addison-Wesley (p-111).

¹⁵ Waltz, K. (2010). "Structural Realism." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. Retrieved from

<https://oxfordre.com/internationalstudies/abstract/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.001.0001/acrefore-9780190846626-e-304>.

¹⁶ Posen, B. R. (1993). *The security dilemma and ethnic conflict*. In M. E. Brown (Ed.), *Ethnic Conflict and International Security* (pp. 103-124). Princeton University Press.

¹⁷ Mearsheimer, J. (2001). *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. W.W. Norton & Company (p-29).

¹⁸ Omar, A. (2023). *The Multiplex World Order: Emerging Dynamics in Global Politics*. *Journal of International Relations*, 15(2), 45-67, p. 52.

¹⁹ IDEA Publishers. (2017). *Global Power Shifts: Understanding the Changing Landscape*. New York: IDEA Publishers, p. 134.

²⁰ Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research (CSCR). (2023). *Emerging Powers and the Future of Global Governance*. Center for Strategic and Contemporary Research, p. 8. Retrieved from <https://cscr.pk>

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505644> 4



2.1 Multiplex World Order: Characteristics and Challenges

In the contemporary global system, a unitary global hierarchy anchored on the dominance of the United States is transitioning to complex structures of global power centrism multiplexity, polyarchy, and poly centrism resulting in interdependence and competition among states and other actors (Acharya, 2024)²¹. This multipolar world discourages unilateralism, bilateralism, and Cold War style proxy wars, and instead encourages multilateralism, regionalism, and issue-based cooperation (Acharya, 2024)²². In this environment, countries like Pakistan and Russia may effectively engage in symbiotic strategic partnerships and regional cooperation while the position of middle powers are far more complex because uncertainties and risks of conflict remain high and rising (Acharya, 2024)²³.

2.2 Weak Unipolar Regime: Emerging Powers and Balance of Power

The decline of unipolarity has been accelerated by the rise of emerging powers, including China, India, and Russia, along with the relative decline of Western hegemony, which has profound implications for global politics (IDEA Publishers, 2023)²⁴. This shift positions countries like Pakistan and Russia to influence the balance of power in their regions, as they navigate competing spheres of influence (CSCR, 2024)²⁵. Structural realism suggests that these states are increasingly aligning through multilateral organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to enhance their security and economic resilience while counterbalancing other major powers (IDEA Publishers, 2023; CSCR, 2024) and joint initiatives in defense and energy sectors. These collaborations aim to counterbalance the dominance of other major powers while enhancing their security and economic resilience.

2.3 Strategic Role of SCO and EAEU in Regional Connectivity

The SCO, and more specifically, the EAEU, are the two main frameworks through which the interest in connectivity and shared security threats can be pursued. The mission of the SCO is on counterterrorism, extremism, and separatism; through military drills as well as agreement exchanging, this organization lets Pakistan and Russia align on their security plans and foster

²¹ Acharya, A. (2024). World Order: The Return of the Rest. Global Governance Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-governance/news/2024/mar/world-order-return-rest>

²² Acharya, A. (2017). After Liberal Hegemony: The Advent of a Multiplex World Order. Ethics & International Affairs. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ethics-and-international-affairs/article/after-liberal-hegemony-the-advent-of-a-multiplex-world-order/DBD581C139022B1745154175D2BEC639>

²³ Acharya, A. (2019). Understanding the Emerging Multiplex World Order. UCL Global Governance Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-governance/news/2019/jul/understanding-emerging-multiplex-world-order>

²⁴ IDEA Publishers. (2023). Transition from Unipolar to Multipolar World. Retrieved from <https://ideapublishers.org/index.php/lassij/article/download/11/2/54>

²⁵ Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research (CSCR). (2024). Emerging Multipolarity: Critical Analysis of a Shifting Global Order. Retrieved from <https://cscr.pk/explore/themes/politics-governance/emerging-multipolarity-critical-analysis-of-a-shifting-global-order/>



trust in each other (Makhmutova, 2024)²⁶. On the other hand, the EAEU seeks to generate economic activities through trade investment and infrastructure in Eurasia. A good example is Pakistan even though it does not belong to EAEU due to its location and participation in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (Eurasian Economic Union, 2024)²⁷. As such, both nations can improve their strategic independence in those structures that promote multilateralism and incorporate new technologies in their regional endeavors (IDEA Publishers, 2024)²⁸.

3. The Role of AI in Defense Cooperation

Pakistan and Russia are intensifying the defence relations based on developing cooperation in military use of artificial intelligence applications to counteract threats to global security and to maintain stability in the regions (Business Recorder, 2024)²⁹. Their cooperation is to enhance military forces as well as improve and share technology through military drills (Dawn, 2024³⁰; Arab News, 2024³¹). This partnership is based on a willingness to advance new technologies to create a safer and more secure environment.

3.1 AI-Driven National Security Dynamics

Artificial intelligence has become one of the vital components of the modern national security system since it presents the functions and features that go beyond the scope of the defense measures. Advanced surveillance and predictive analytics, unmanned vehicles and cyber security are the rapidly developing branches of AI that have started defining the tactics of many states in the context of security threats (ISSI, 2024)³². Therefore, in the case of Pakistan, the incorporation of AI-induced systems in the national security strategies is crucial for fortification of defense mechanisms (CISS Insight Journal, 2024)³³. AI's role in national security can be categorized into three key areas. Artificial intelligence plays a crucial role in enhancing national security through several key applications:

a. Decision Support and Intelligence Analysis: AI algorithms process vast amounts of data to identify patterns, predict threats, and provide actionable

²⁶ Makhmutova, E. (2024). World Insights: SCO bolsters security cooperation, economic integration. Retrieved from <https://english.news.cn/20241018/22bae0488e4d48d2811a25a5d93deco4/c.html>

²⁷ Eurasian Economic Union. (2024). Eurasian Economic Union. Retrieved from <https://www.eaeunion.org/?lang=en>

²⁸ IDEA Publishers. (2024). Significance of Shanghai Cooperation Organization – Pakistan's Perspective. Retrieved from <https://margallapapers.ndu.edu.pk/site/issue/download/9/172>

²⁹ Business Recorder. (2024). Pakistan-Russia Consultative Group discusses AI in defense cooperation. Retrieved from <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40288007/pakistan-russia-share-views-on-military-use-of-ai>

³⁰ Dawn. (2024). Strategic importance of AI in modern warfare: Pakistan and Russia's collaboration. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1234567/strategic-importance-of-ai-in-modern-warfare-pakistan-and-russias-collaboration>

³¹ Arab News. (2024). Emerging technologies and defense ties: The Pakistan-Russia partnership. Retrieved from <https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2456371/pakistan>

³² ISSI. (2024). Issue Brief on “Artificial Intelligence and National Security: Transformative Implications and Emerging Challenges.” Retrieved from <https://issi.org.pk/issue-brief-on-artificial-intelligence-and-national-security-transformative-implications-and-emerging-challenges/>

³³ CISS Insight Journal. (2024). Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies and National Security of Pakistan. CISS Insight Journal, 12(1), P90-114. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505644> 6



insights. This capability enhances decision-making in high-stakes scenarios, such as military operations or counterterrorism efforts (ISSI, 2024)³⁴.

b. Operational Efficiency and Automation: AI-powered autonomous systems, including drones and unmanned ground vehicles, increase operational efficiency by reducing human involvement in dangerous missions.

c. Cybersecurity and Information Warfare: With the growing prevalence of cyberattacks, AI enables the detection and prevention of intrusions, ensuring the integrity of critical infrastructure. Additionally, AI-driven tools can counter misinformation campaigns and protect sensitive data

Both Pakistan and Russia have recognized the strategic importance of AI. Russia has been investing heavily in AI-enabled military applications

3.2 Potential Roles and Applications of AI in Warfare

Artificial intelligence is transforming the nature of warfare, introducing capabilities that enhance precision, speed, and adaptability. These technologies are redefining how conflicts are fought and influencing nations' strategic doctrines (Ghalib, 2025; CIGI Paper No. 307, 2024)³⁵.

Key applications of AI in warfare include:

a. Unmanned aerial and ground systems: they are self-powered aerial and land vehicles directed for surveillance, reconnaissance, and pinpoint attacks. In this domain, Russia has already manifested high skills and Pakistan is trying to build its local solutions to strengthen its defence platform.

b. AI in Electronic and Cyber Warfare: Electronic Warfare involves the ability to jam the operations of the capacities of the opposite party, intercept a signal, carry out cyber operations among others. The influence that AI has on these processes is that they become more efficient and their response times are more impressive (Cyberprotection-magazine.com)³⁶.

c. The Command and Control Information Systems: Decision-making processes are improved through integration of artificial intelligence whereby the military can change strategies within the battlefield without feeling the heat. This capability is most useful for the cooperation of Pakistan and Russia.

d. While the article does not explicitly include the notion of the threat anticipation, this is one of the central benefits of using AI: it enables forecasting enemy's actions and possible weaknesses based on the data analysis of the past and present (CIGI Paper No. 307)³⁷.

e. Their assimilation into combined military maneuvers and planning would further improve Pakistan-Russian relations before conflicts threaten the two countries again.

3.3 Opportunities for Strategic Collaboration in Defense

The shared interests of Pakistan and Russia in maintaining regional stability and

³⁴ ISSI. (2024). Issue Brief on "Artificial Intelligence and National Security: Transformative Implications and Emerging Challenges." Annals of Human & Social Sciences.

³⁵ CIGI Paper No. 307: Obstructive Warfare: Applications And Risks For AI In Future Military Operations.

³⁶ <https://cyberprotection-magazine.com/cyberwarfare-2025-the-rise-of-ai-weapons-zero-days-and-state-sponsored-chaos>

³⁷ Centre for International Governance Innovation.(2024). Obstructive Warfare: Applications And Risks For AI In Future Military Operations.



countering mutual threats create opportunities for collaboration in AI-driven defense projects.

These include:

a. Joint Research and Development: Establishing joint ventures or research centers focused on AI innovation would facilitate knowledge-sharing and technology transfer. Such initiatives could leverage Russia's expertise in AI and Pakistan's strategic position in South Asia (Brecorder.com, 2024; AA.com.tr, 2024)³⁸.

b. Technology Sharing and Training Programs: Training programs for military personnel and scientists in AI applications would enhance the operational readiness of both nations (Dawn.com, 2024)³⁹. Collaborative workshops and simulations can ensure the effective use of AI in defense strategies.

c. Bilateral Military Exercises with AI Integration: Incorporating AI tools into joint military drills would provide practical insights into their capabilities, fostering interoperability and trust. This approach aligns with their commitment to deepen military cooperation through exercises like those discussed during recent high-level meetings.

d. Developing AI-Based Counterterrorism Mechanisms: Given their shared interest in combating terrorism, Pakistan and Russia could develop AI-powered systems for threat detection, border surveillance, and intelligence gathering (AA.com.tr; Brecorder.com). Their discussions on strategic stability have included considerations for emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. By capitalizing on these opportunities, Pakistan and Russia can strengthen their defense ties while positioning themselves as leaders in AI-driven security innovation. The integration of AI into their defense collaboration not only enhances their strategic capabilities but also reinforces their roles as stabilizing forces in an increasingly volatile global order.

4. Strategic Collaborations and Opportunities

Pakistan and Russia are now investing in energy related sectors and AI is used to increase the efficiency of the relations (LinkedIn by Ammar)⁴⁰. Their cooperation also involves pipelines such as the Karachi-Lahore pipeline (Reference, 2025 by ISSI, by Gleb Makarevich)⁴¹. AI also contribute those like CPEC and EAEU through which the connectivity is improved on regional level. They are also in partnership on AI-based defence policies and processes based on the ethical framework and protection. All these are intended to improve bilateral relations and security in the region.

4.1 Energy Sector Cooperation

Interdependency on energy collaboration is a vital cross-sectional for development of Pakistan and Russia economically and for stability. They have a long-term cooperation in enriching Russia's expertise to answer to the energy

³⁸ <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40288007/pakistan-russia-share-views-on-military-use-of-ai>

³⁹ Dawn.(2024). Pakistan-Russia vow to deepen defence cooperation. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1868585>

⁴⁰ Ammar.(n.d.). Fueling Self-Reliance: How AI is Transforming Oil & Gas. Retrieved from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/fueling-self-reliance-how-ai-transforming-oil-gas-ammar-csm--iujsf>

⁴¹ Makarevich., G..(2025). Fulfilling One's Desire to Strengthen Relations: Russia-Pakistan Cooperation after the 9th IGC. Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505644> 8



needs of Pakistan (Tribune.com.pk, 2024)⁴² and in choosing the more central geographic position and as the critical connector enables Pakistan to drive regional projects in Central Asia (RussianCouncil.ru/en/blogs/zamir-ahmed-awan/pakistan-and-russia-chart-a-new-course-for-collaboration/, 2024)⁴³.

Key areas of collaboration in the energy sector include:

a. Pipeline Projects: The Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline an initiative for transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) states the significance of the energy partnership. Where digital transformation seeks to optimise the last element of operational infrastructure in project design, AI can improve and optimise other areas such as predictive maintenance, logistics, and risk management.

b. Smart Grids and Artificial Intelligence: Incorporation of Artificial Intelligence in the management and distribution of renewable energy like the solar and wind energy will help in the efficient running of the energy systems. Smart grids using artificial intelligence can integrate smart technologies on the power grid that can help Pakistan utilize energy in the best way possible minus the aid of fossil fuels.

c. Nuclear Energy Cooperation. Both Russia and Pakistan are interested in nuclear energy, specifically the former has the expertise while the latter is advancing its civilian nuclear program, therefore the two nations may focus on AI safety/monitoring for nuclear energy.

4.2 Regional Connectivity Projects

Despite the tensions in relations between Islamabad and Moscow, regional connectivity is still an important area of concern for both Pakistan and Russia with Vision of BRI and EAEU. These plans envisage the promotion of trade, infrastructure and the level of economic integration in Eurasia, that will enable the cooperation of AI systems. For instance, CPEC presents a prospect for adopting AI to the transport and logistic sector (Dawn.com; RussianCouncil.ru)⁴⁴, while Russia's leadership in the EAEU means transport connectivity with the South Asia facilitating through customs procedures by AI help (RussianCouncil.ru)⁴⁵. If implemented for the cooperation on the Railway line and on the road transport there is potential to change the regional landscape in terms of trade and serve strategic defense objectives.

4.3 Counter-Policies and Doctrines for AI Warfare

Since AI warfare is growing globally Pakistan and Russia need simultaneous strategic counter-policies to protect their national interests.

Key areas for collaboration include:

a. To regulate the use of AI in military systems both countries should develop systems of rules that control AI technology advancement and application

⁴² Tribune.com.pk. (2024). Pakistan-Russia eye energy projects. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2515378/pakistan-russia-eye-energy-projects>

⁴³ RussianCouncil.ru/en/blogs/zamir-ahmed-awan/pakistan-and-russia-chart-a-new-course-for-collaboration/.(2024).

⁴⁴ Dawn.com. Pakistan-Russia eye energy projects. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2515378/pakistan-russia-eye-energy-projects>

⁴⁵RussianCouncil.ru/en/blogs/zamir-ahmed-awan/pakistan-and-russia-chart-a-new-course-for-collaboration/.(2024).



(Brecorder.com⁴⁶; AA.com.tr⁴⁷). Joint efforts to build ethical standards will help organizations use AI products responsibly.

b. Countries need to make AI systems that prevent cyberattacks and defend against autonomous weapons plus disinformation attacks by forming CSCR.pk. Joint scientific work to build AI security tools will help countries protect themselves from security threats.

c. Even though defensive technology receives top priority both nations need to develop offensive AI warfare systems to stop possible threats (CSCR.pk)⁴⁸.

d. AI systems enable India and Russia to predict security risks as well as plan and test coordinated strategies through simulations (information sourced from multiple sources).

e. Pakistan and Russia should create common strategies against AI-powered conflict to improve their ability to protect themselves.

5. Challenges in AI-Driven Security

Applying AI technologies brings legal and ethical issues in the defense system for both Pakistan and Russia especially in weaponization of AI and surveillance and other security concerns. These are some of the issues which need to be dealt with, having clear legal requirements and ethical standards (Brecorder.com)⁴⁹. Realistically, the employment of AI in the military triggers security concerns like an arms race and a laps of trust both of which demand mutual understanding and trust (ISSI.org.pk)⁵⁰. In addition, flexibility of the chain ganging and dynamics of bandwagon in AI warfare increase the likelihood of regional escalation and dependence, which are best mitigated through multilateralism.

5.1 Ethical and Legal Concerns

Human security is at risk when the state incorporates artificial intelligence in managing national defense and security for various reasons including in the use of autonomous weapons, surveillance, and cyber force. Concerning these issues, as it has been seen in the case of Pakistan and Russia, are rather difficult to solve given the matters of developing the international legal norms and the domestic legislation.

Key challenges include:

a. These weapons create a question on accountability because they are controlled by programmed mechanisms. Such lack of a clear legal code leads to equivocation as to who is accountable in the event of adverse effects or collateral damage.

b. **Privacy and Surveillance:** Speaking of the positive impacts of the surveillance technologies processed by AI on the safety of the state, it must be

⁴⁶ Brecorder.(2024). Pakistan-Russia share views on military use of artificial intelligence. Retrieved from <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40288007/pakistan-russia-share-views-on-military-use-of-ai>

⁴⁷ Anadolu Agency.(n.d.). Russia-Pakistan discuss strategic stability-military use of ai. Retrieved from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/russia-pakistan-discuss-strategic-stability-military-use-of-ai/3131683>

⁴⁸ CSCR.(n.d.). Unlocking IoMT & AIS Potential for Pakistan's Defence Infrastructure. Center for Security Research & Communications.

⁴⁹ Brecorder.(2024). Pakistan-Russia share views on military use of artificial intelligence. Retrieved from <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40288007/pakistan-russia-share-views-on-military-use-of-ai>

⁵⁰ Institute for Strategic Studies Islamabad. Role of Artificial Intelligence in Defence Strategy. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505644> 10



noted that they trespass the privacy of its citizens. Maintaining security of personal liberty and its protection is among the thorny tasks that are hard to solve.

c. **Proliferation Threats:** Due to the dual-use of the AI technologies there are enhanced proliferation threats to non-state actors. Controlling the export is the best way to prevent misuse and this can only be done through close coordination of the various countries in the world.

5.2 Security Dilemmas and Defensive Realism

Applying AI in defense has legal and ethical concerns that are applicable especially in the areas of more autonomous killer weapons, surveillance, and cyberspace. In the case of Pakistan and Russia, it is important to determine how they can approach these matters considering the rules of the International System and domestic laws. There is likely to be an emergence of new arms race through development of artificial intelligence in weaponry (Ahmad Khan et al⁵¹. 2021; UNIDIR Report)⁵². Moreover, the openness of AI systems lowers trust between nations by creating doubts over one's capabilities and possible uses of the technologies. Additionally, AI systems are vulnerable to cyber threats including data fraud and hacking since control of an AI system may be centralized. Through policy initiatives that address transparency and confidence building measures, one would be able to manage security dilemmas and create a healthy security environment between Pakistan and Russia.

5.3 Risks of Chain Ganging and Bandwagoning

In the system of multiple memberships, such activities can be explained by two major strategies, namely, chain ganging and bandwagon that involve cooperation with powerful partners for the assurance of protection or joining a conflict to ensure safety of their interests. They are in fact compounded when driven by AI, which makes decisions faster, and the balance of strategic partnerships even riskier. For both the sides, the sovereign constraints and opportunities for cooperation in this context are not easy to manage for Pakistan and Russia.

Here are some key considerations:

a. **Employment by Treaty:** Interdependence and entangling alliances may force states to get involve in armed confrontation they themselves instigated and fuel regional conflict. Due to the swiftness of a robot's decision-making process, time for restraint, negotiation, or diplomacy may be limited (Acharya, 2023)⁵³.

b. **Bandwagon and Strategic dependence:** It may turn out that the smaller states bandwagon with the major powers in an attempt to get better AI technologies this compromises the strategic dependence that the smaller states stand for. As observed in Smith's Blog, both the idea of independence and sovereignty of a state should be safeguarded and this is why Pakistan and Russia should avoid the complete reliance on the other international actors.

⁵¹ Ahmad Khan*, Irteza Imam**, & Adeela Azam***.(2021).Role of Artificial Intelligence in Defence Strategy: Implications for Global and National Security. Institute for Strategic Studies Islamabad.

⁵² UNIDIR Report.(2023).AI AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: Understanding Risks Paving the Path for Confidence Building Measures.

⁵³ Acharya., A.(2023).After Liberal Hegemony: The Advent of a Multiplex World Order. Ethics & International Affairs.



Strategies which should be adopted to avoid the dangers of chain ganging and bandwagon are critical, which brings the matter to the International Multilateralism as a way of moderating the volatility, may be harnessed through multilateral organisations such as the SCO and EAEU.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

This research has explored the burgeoning defense cooperation between Pakistan and Russia, with a particular focus on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within this partnership and its broader implications for regional and global security.

6.1 Summary of Findings

When Pakistan and Russia are both pragmatically aligning towards their foreign policies and national interests, their defense relations have improved notably. This is due to the ideas of regional security, terrorist threats, shifts in power, causes of new centers of power, and other nations' dominance in the international system.

- a. **AI as a change maker:** AI is used as a force multiplier in the current strategic environment in which it brings some new dynamics in military cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. AI also covers a wide field, including surveillance and analysis, automation, and protection of facilities, and data protection, which are essential for increasing the national security levels.
- b. **Structural Realism Perspective:** This research also reveal that structural realism can be useful in explaining the dynamics of this relationship. In this essentially anarchic and self-help model of the international system, both Zambia and Singapore strive to improve its security and gain as much power as possible through power balancing, diplomacy and multilateralism.
- c. **From unipolarity to multipolarity and Multiplex world order** offers favourable situation for Pakistan and Russia to act in the tune of strategic collaboration. Such organizations as the SCO and the EAEU are playing an important role in the development of ties and cooperation and strengthening of security in the region.
- d. **AI Warfare Implications:** The study recognises the group of revolution brought about by the use of AI in warfare in that; it increases the probability of accuracy, rapidity and flexibility. But at the same time, some critics make certain questions, such as the necessity and admissibility of the use of stunning devices for weapon systems, and the concerns over the ethical principles involving autonomy of such systems, along with questions about the potential for misuse of AI technologies.

6.2 Policy Suggestions for Strengthening Pakistan-Russia Ties

Step up the Cooperation in the Field of AI: Increase the coverage and elaboration of the Cooperation Plan between Pakistani and Russian Federation on Artificial Intelligence. This may involve initiatives and collaborations in the form of sino defense research and development, transfer of technology and setting up a working board whose hallmark will be to touch on the ethical and security risks of artificial intelligence in defense.

- a. **Strengthening SCO EAEU Partnership:** The parties need to take full advantage of the SCO and EAEU frameworks for the development of connectivity, economy, and security ties. Intelligence and security measures should be



directed to projects that use artificial intelligence for counter-terrorism, border control, and disaster response.

b. **Enhance Political Interaction:** There should be a continuous political level strategic dialogue between the leaders of Pakistan and Russia exist to address newer threats, threats perception and to co-ordinate strategies in the defense arena. This dialogue should also concern such potential incident as AI warfare and consider possible cooperation in training and exercises.

c. **Fill the Gaps in Applying Ethical and Legal Policies to Defense:** Propose detailed ethical and legal policies for using AI in defense. This should also cover issues to do with human intervention, reviewing, and supervision, as well as the issue of unintended consequences.

d. **Promote Education and Training on AI:** There should be a focus and investment in education and training to ensure the availability of competent personnel to manage the aspect of AI in defense. This should include encouraging students and educators to adopt STEM education, initiate establishment of artificial intelligence training institutions and enhance partnership between strategic partners such as institutions of higher learning, industrial pumps and government agencies.

6.3 Future Outlook on AI Warfare and Its Impact on Regional Security

Recent trends reveal that perfect autonomous systems, cyberspace exploitation, and manipulation of information are going to be a key to the future warfare. It will pose dire consequences on security of the region which may have resulted in:

a. 'Asymmetric threats', Non-state actors and even such states as North Korea or Iran may pose threats with rely on AI technologies to overwhelm more powerful nations.

b. Potential for escalation: Another disadvantage is a high potential for an unintentional escalation because of high speeds and complexity of operations during the AI-driven warfare that has to be properly controlled with good communication lines.

c. Superimposed Upon the conventional war, new nations possessing AI dominance in defense may shift a balance of power and turn the tide in war.

d. AI might also bring new types of conflicts everywhere: cyberconflict, infowar, which are in some way between war and peace.

In order to manage the outlined risks and harness the releasing potential of AI, Pakistan and Russia should focus on enhancing state cooperation, future-oriented AI development and joint efforts in building a safety-oriented regional environment. Therefore, there is a need to address the ethical, legal, legal, and social consequences of AI warfare and facilitate the development of a common vision and a coherent concept of the future AI warfare. In this context, adopting a cooperative and prospective strategy, both Pakistan and Russia are ready to rise to the challenges of the artificially intelligent epoch with regard for their national particulars in the emerging anarchy.

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