

Geopolitical Implications of Digital Technologies in the Modern World

Sofia Koroleva*

Institute of International Relations and Social and Political Sciences, Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow, Russia

Email address:

koroleva.sofiko@gmail.com (Sofia Koroleva)

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Digital technologies are shaping a new era of geopolitics, where technological supremacy is becoming a key factor of global power alongside traditional military and economic resources. Contemporary cybergeopolitics is characterized by the technological confrontation between the United States and China, the formation of digital sovereignty among leading states, fragmentation of the global internet, and the growth of digital colonialism. Russia ranks among the top three countries with full digital sovereignty together with the United States and China, which confirms its position in the new geopolitical reality. Digital sovereignty, meaning the state's ability to provide itself with all digital solutions from applications to infrastructure, is becoming a strategic priority for leading powers. The Central Asian region is becoming an object of digital colonization, where tech corporations and major powers divide influence between themselves. BRICS is developing new directions for cooperation in the field of open digital technologies and a concept of digital trust to counter technological dominance. Technological wars are becoming new trade wars, blurring the boundaries between economy and security. Big tech companies are turning into "private governments" that influence the lives of millions of people. Access to modern technologies directly affects the ability to project power and the buildup of a country's political and military strength. The global internet is transforming into a collection of isolated national segments, forming the phenomenon of "splinternet." India, Brazil, and South Korea are introducing mandatory data storage within their countries. Nations are blocking foreign services. The future of the internet is a world of "digital islands," where global connectivity will give way to national rules. Excessive fragmentation may slow down the development of global science, business, and education. Tech corporations practice digital colonialism. Countries in Africa and South America are almost completely excluded from the process of global Artificial Intelligence development. The gap between developed and developing countries is growing, and AI resources are distributed unevenly. AI has become not only a technological resource but also a strategic tool affecting power distribution. Technological blocs are forming — American, Chinese, and European. Geopolitical competition is shifting to the digital sphere, where victory is determined by technological supremacy, digital sovereignty, and the ability to shape international standards.

Keywords

Geopolitics, Digital Technologies, Digital Sovereignty, Technological Supremacy, Digital Colonialism, Splinternet, Artificial Intelligence