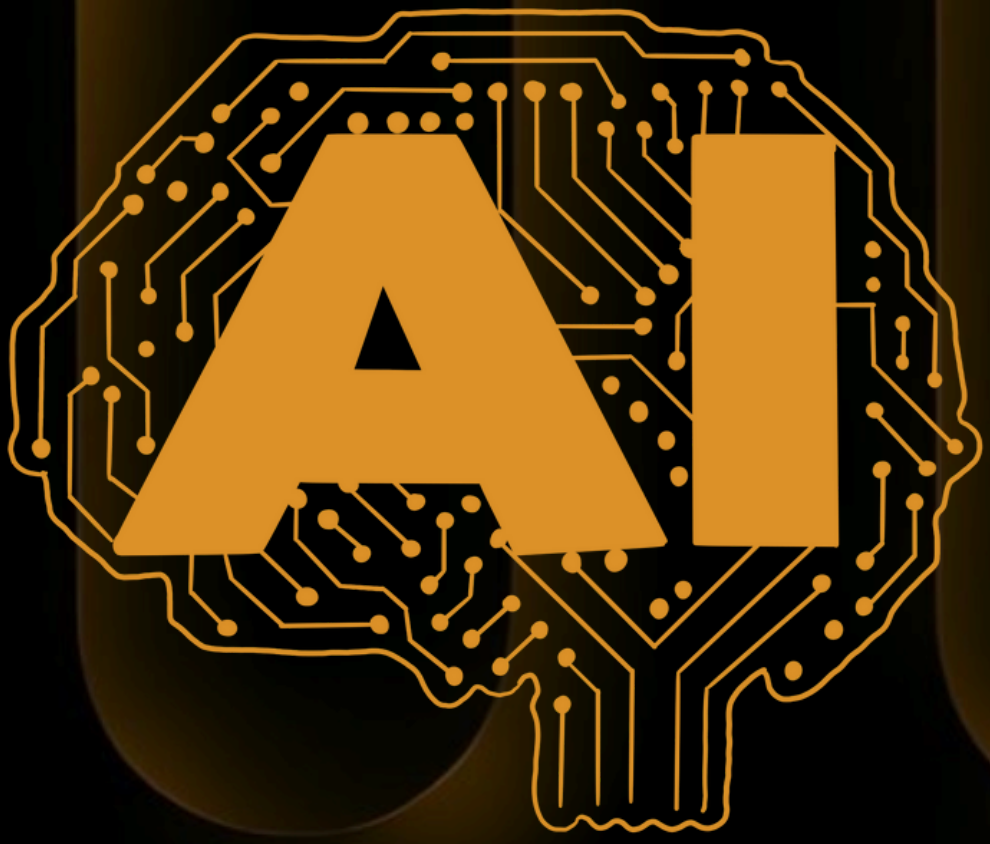
Delhi Public School Bangalore South

BACKGROUND GUIDE



BILDERBERG

Bilderberg Conference

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LETTER FROM THE EB

Dear Delegates,
Writing the letter to the committee always feels surreal. The feeling that once I was reading letters from those extremely talented, and legendary MUNners, makes me want to try and ensure those putting in the effort to read this take away the most positive experience they can possibly take home from a Model UN. At various points leading up to this committee, and in the committee itself, you will feel. When I say feel, I truly mean just that because no matter how committed you are to your country or committee, or the competition itself, events that bring people together have the effect of making people experience emotions. It can be joy, exhilaration, annoyance, confusion, nerves, and an amped up mix of emotions throughout. I truly believe you should use those emotions and channel them towards the feelings you perceive the historical men in this committee to have.

The Bilderberg Meetings, often shrouded in mystery and speculation, are annual private conferences attended by influential figures from North America and Europe. Each year, the conference gathers around 120 to 150 participants, including political leaders, business moguls, academics, and experts from various fields. These attendees, invited on a personal basis, engage in off-the-record discussions on global issues such as economic policy, international security, technological innovation, and societal challenges. The informal nature of the meetings encourages open dialogue and the exchange of ideas free from public scrutiny and media coverage.
While the Bilderberg Meetings do not produce official statements or policy decisions, they are often seen as a venue where influential figures can explore complex issues and forge informal networks. This secrecy has fueled numerous conspiracy theories and criticisms, suggesting that the group operates as a shadowy cabal influencing global events.

However, proponents argue that the meetings provide a valuable platform for understanding and collaboration among some of the world's most powerful individuals, contributing to more nuanced perspectives on global affairs.
I am confident that each of you possesses the skill and reasoning to make this committee both engaging and dynamic. A well-prepared delegate is a formidable force in any committee, but here, the ability to think quickly and adapt on the spot can make you an unstoppable force- almost lethal, in the most impactful way possible.

So, elevate your logical reasoning, sharpen your critical thinking, and embrace your adaptability before you step into this committee. Once inside, you either become the hunter or the hunted. Welcome to the Bilderberg Committee, delegates- a forum where everything you say and every move you make, carries significant weight and consequences.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Founded in 1954, the Bilderberg Committee is an exclusive annual conference that aims to facilitate discussions between influential figures from Europe and North America. Initially designed to strengthen transatlantic relations and promote cooperation on major political, economic, and defence topics, the meetings gather prominent leaders from business, politics, and academia, and in recent years, one of the main focuses has been on the development and impact of AI. The first conference was held at the Bilderberg Hotel (Hotel de Bilderberg) in Oosterbeek, Netherlands, from 29 to 31 May 1954. The hotel gave its name both to the group and to the "Bilderbergers" who participated in its activities. The conference was initiated by several people, including Polish politician-in-exile Józef Retinger who, concerned about the growth of anti-Americanism in Western Europe, proposed an international conference at which leaders from European countries and the United States would be brought together with the aim of promoting Atlanticism—better understanding between the cultures of the United States and Western Europe to foster cooperation on political, economic, and defence issues.

HISTORY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved significantly since its conceptual origins in the mid-20th century. The term "artificial intelligence" was first coined by John McCarthy in 1956 during the Dartmouth Conference, which marked the field's formal inception. Early AI research focused on symbolic systems and logical reasoning, exemplified by projects like the General Problem Solver and the Logic Theorist.

In the 1960s and 70s, the field saw optimism with developments in expert systems and machine learning, though progress was hampered by limitations in computational power and understanding. The 1980s ushered in the rise of neural networks, inspired by the human brain's structure, although their potential was not fully realised until decades later due to inadequate data and processing capabilities.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries marked a renaissance for AI, driven by advances in computing power, the advent of big data, and breakthroughs in algorithms. Technologies such as deep learning and reinforcement learning began to outperform humans in specific tasks like image recognition and game playing, exemplified by milestones such as IBM's Deep Blue defeating chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997 and Google's AlphaGo besting Go champion Lee Sedol in 2016.

Today, AI is integral to numerous applications, from autonomous vehicles and medical diagnostics to personalised recommendations and natural language processing, reflecting its transition from theoretical research to practical deployment in everyday life.

ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

As of recent times, urgency and profound importance of fairness, justice, and
Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been made evident by grave failures, limitations, harms, threats, and inaccuracies emanating from algorithmic systems deployed in various domains from criminal justice systems, and education, to medicine. These have been brought forth by landmark studies and foundational books. Furthermore, the critical importance of the topic is marked by newly founded conferences exclusively dedicated to AI Ethics (e.g. AIES and FAccT). This urgency and heightened attention on fairness, justice, and ethics is warranted.

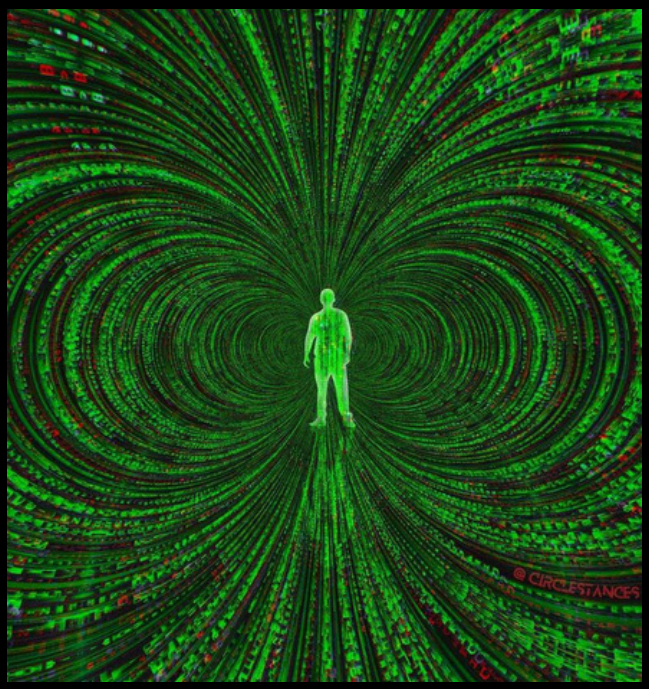
The fact that computation is a physical process limits how much can be done de novo in the instant during which intelligence must be expressed, when action must be taken to save a system from a threat or to empower it through an opportunity. For this reason, much of intelligence exploits computation already done, or rather exploits those artefacts produced that preserve the outcomes of that computation. Recognising the value and reuse of prior computation helps us understand the designs not only of culture but also of biology. Not only can organisms solely exploit opportunities they can perceive, they also tend to perceive solely what they are equipped to exploit-capacities for perception and action evolve together.

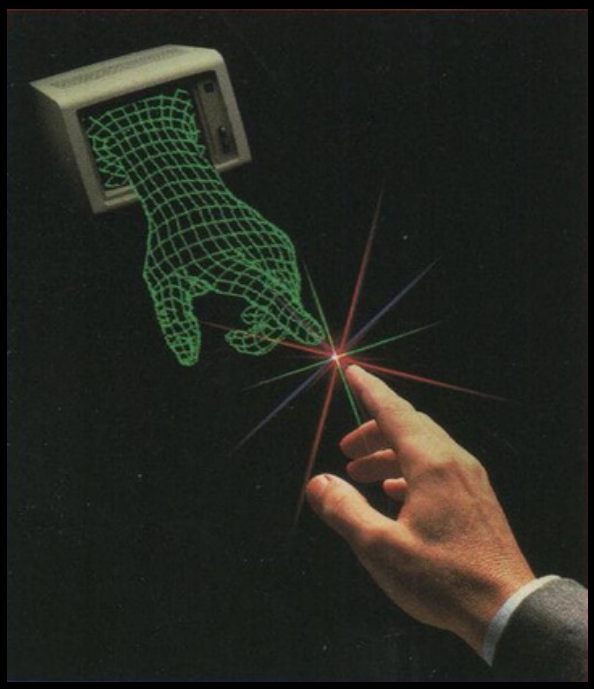
Similarly, culture passes us not every tool that others have invented, but of all those inventions, the ones that produce the greatest impact relative to the costs of transmission. Much of the recent immense growth of AI has been specifically to improve capacities to "mine" using machine learning, the prior discoveries of humanity and nature more generally. Of course with such mining the good comes with the bad. We mine not only knowledge but also stereotypes and biassed information, and if we allow AI to take action, these 'prejudiced' data sets can cause harm to society.

This is not a special feature of AI; as mentioned previously, this is how nature works as well. Evolution can only collect and preserve the best of what is presently available (what has already been computed); even within that range the process is stochastic and will sometimes make errors. Further, examining the AI products of machine learning has shown that at least some of what we call "stereotypes" reflect aspects of present-day conditions.

Researchers, policymakers, industry, and society at large increasingly recognize the need for design and engineering approaches that ensure the safe, beneficial, and fair use of technologies, that consider the implications of ethically and legally relevant decision-making by machines, and that evaluate the ethical and legal status of AI. These approaches include the methods and tools for systems' design, and implementation, governance and regulatory processes, and consultation and

training activities that ensure all are heard and able to participate in the discussion. During the endeavours to develop more ethically sound AI, it is vital to consider all aspects of the training program. The act of selecting data and data sets for training an Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning Unit, or even a GAN, requires careful consideration. When it comes to military and safety applications, these data sets must be combed for possible inherent biases, false positives, extraneous variables etc. Military operations involve multiple human minds processing multiple strands of data, all of which cannot be quantified in a meaningful manner. This includes foreign policy, moral values, economic costs, volatility of the on ground situation etc.





MILITARY INTEGRATION AND LEGAL BOUNDARIES

The primary legal concern is whether autonomous AI capabilities could even be capable of compliance with the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) framework for targeting because they lack the requisite human judgement and experience that underlie the application of the legal tests. Distinction is an increasingly complex issue at a time when adversaries are often indistinguishable from the civilian population and will habitually alternate between targetable and non-targetable status. Often the only way to make this identification on the ground is by assessing someone's activity to discern if they are directly taking part in hostilities at a particular time, rendering them targetable. This is challenging as there is no precise definition of what constitutes direct participation in hostilities. The committee seeks to discuss and examine this aspect of AI's role in security and defence, and to clarify the nuances in its compliance with the IHL.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more prevalent in battlegrounds. Like industries and businesses, the military is also starting to become more AI-focused when it comes to advancement and development of defence, targeting and other military systems.. AI-powered military systems can process large volumes of data more efficiently than conventional systems.

Additionally, AI enhances fighting systems' self-control, self-regulation, and self-actuation through innate calculation and decision making abilities. Practically every military application involves artificial intelligence, and growing military support for innovative and advanced AI technologies is anticipated to increase the demand for AI-driven systems in the military sectors.

Further on the topic of Autonomous Weapons and Target Recognition, the Cuban Missile Crisis during the Cold War, which nearly resulted in the nuclear war, provides the finest illustration of the impact and exceptional significance of autonomous weapon systems (AWS) and target recognition. This one piece of technology–the US Naval Forces' Autonomous Weapons System and Target Recognition–could have prevented this scenario. The United States and the Soviet Union focused more on deterrence and wartime stability after learning from the outcome of the conflict, such as by making AI-controlled military decisions less predictable and achieving machine-like accuracy. World Wars initiated the application of AI in the defence sector, but it started progressing in situations like the above.

However, with a revolutionary advancement in technology in the form of AI, it is quite easy to exaggerate the benefits and minimise the risks associated with its development and application in the military. There are five clear global risks of AI in the modern era:

(1) Program bias introduction to the decision-making process
(2) Lack of traceability in AI implementation
(3) Black box algorithms and lack of transparency
(4) Data gathering & sourcing and privacy infractions or violations of personal data
(5) Uncertain legal liability or identification of authority

The Committee intends on thoroughly assessing and discussing all potential risks, aiming to implement systems that ensure safety and uphold the stability of international peace.