#### AI, GEOPOLITICS AND THE RISE OF DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

Det Nationale Center for Al i Samfundet The National Center for AI in Society THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS

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#### REBECCA ADLER-NISSEN

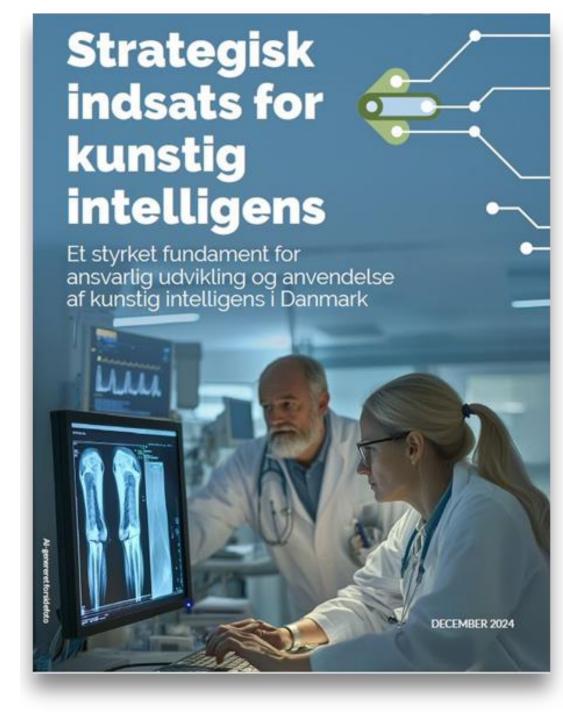
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND DIRECTOR OF CAISA UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN





# CAISA: INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

A national consortium led by University of Copenhagen and Aalborg University with Aarhus University, DTU and ITU in collaboration with the Pioneer Centre for Al, serving as a gateway to state-of-the-art knowledge and guidance on how authorities and businesses can responsibly apply Al in practice.



#### AN INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM OF CHIEF SCIENTISTS



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**Prof. Thomas B Moeslund Aalborg University** 



**Prof. Serge Belongie** University of Copenhagen



**Prof. Stine Lomborg** University of Copenhagen



Prof. Anders Søgaard University of Copenhagen



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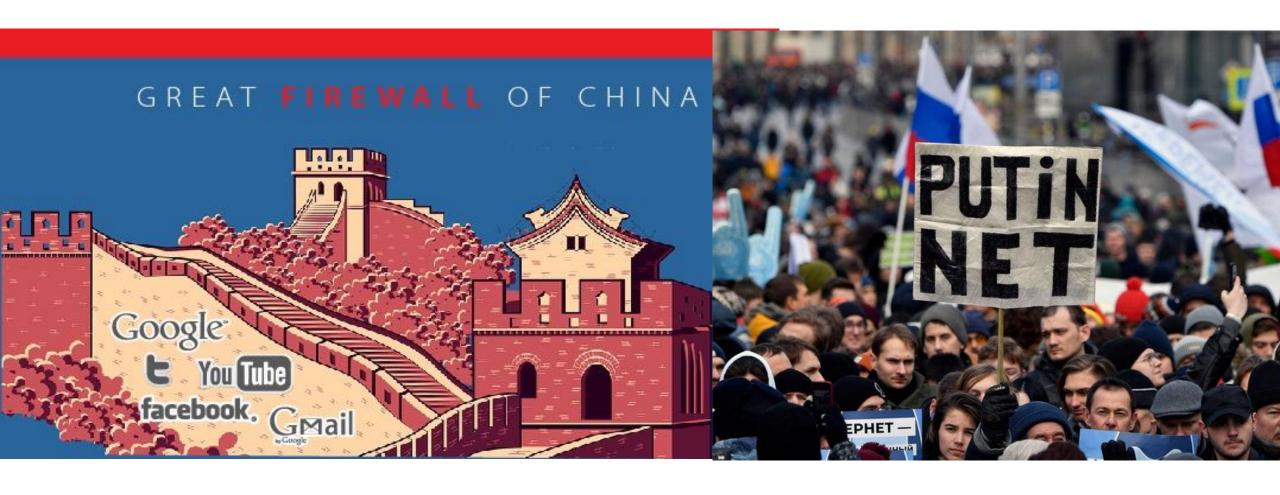


Assoc. Prof. Anna Rogers **IT-University** 



**Prof. Helene Ratner** Aarhus University/DTU

### CHINA AND RUSSIA KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT DIGITAL GOVERNANCE...



### .. AND THE US WANTS GLOBAL DOMINANCE!

"As our global competitors race to exploit [a new frontier of scientific discovery], it is a national security imperative for the United States to achieve and maintain unquestioned and unchallenged global technological dominance"

(Donald Trump 2025)

The Al Action Plan promotes exporting America's "full Al technology stack — hardware, models, software applications and standards - to all countries willing to join America's Al alliance"



Winning the Race

### AMERICA'S AI ACTION PLAN

JULY 2025



"[t]he world is facing a narrow window of opportunity [...] to shape the Al-enabled future. This window will be brief - a few years at most - then views and strategies will harden; norms, values, standards will be embedded within the technology; and the costs of changing course will rise. While Al-enabled technology will continue to progress, decisions made today will determine what is possible in the future. A generative world order will emerge"

Goldman Sachs, 2024

## China's Latest AI Chatbot Is Trained on Preside Jinping's Political Ideology

China's latest artificial intelligence chatbot is trained on President Xi Jinping's doctrine in a stark reminder of the ideological parameters that Chinese AI models should abide by



May 24, 2024, at 12:17 p.m.













#### SPONSORED FINANC



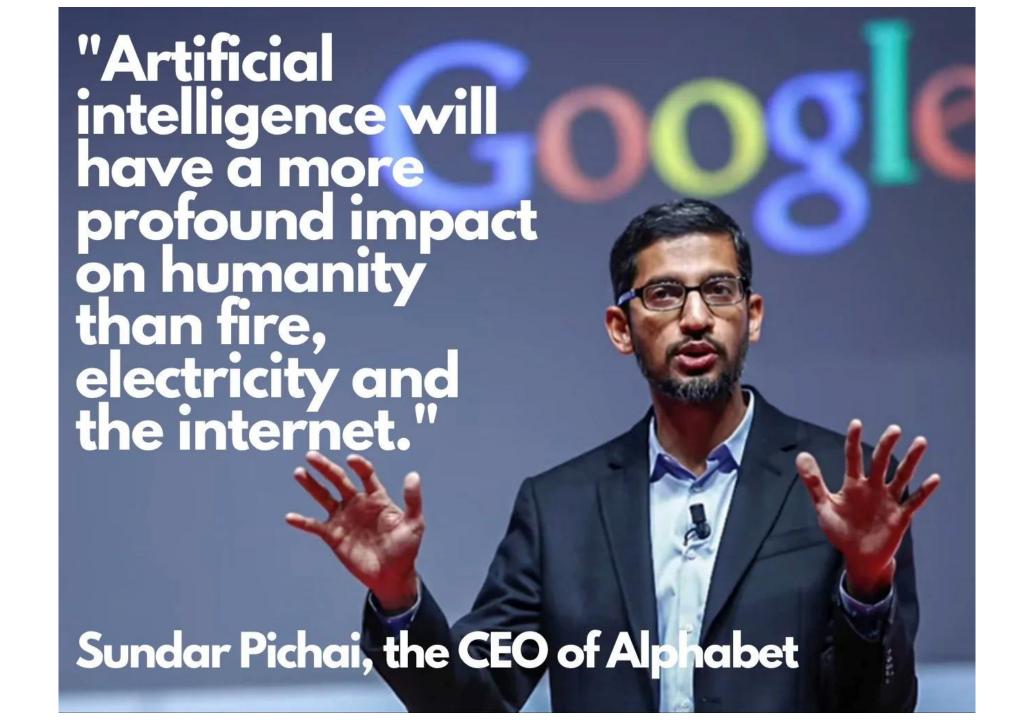


Find expe

"The rise of India is deeply linked to the rise of Indian technology. It could be semiconductors, it could be 5G, artificial intelligence, commercial space launches, satellite fabrication"

"We cannot be agnostic about technology. We have to stop thinking that there is something neutral about technology...more and more things are technology driven and we need to understand that there is a very strong political connotation in-built into technology,"

India's External Minister S. Jaishankar, 2022



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Colors, January 4th, 1974.

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### WHICH (AND WHOSE) IDEAS SHAPE AI REGULATION?

Global tech-companies are active participants in the making of global tech regulation – they co-write and negotiate the very rules that are supposed to reign them in.

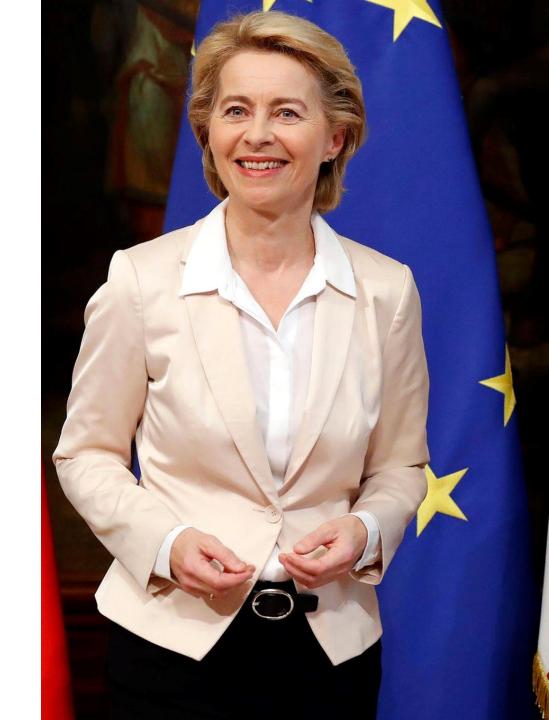






### MAKING EUROPE "FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE"

Europe must make itself 'fit for the digital age' by setting standards for the ethical use of digital technologies cohering with European values and identities, and achieving 'sovereignty' in critical technological areas in order to limit dependencies on foreign players, especially US and Chinese techcompanies



#### THE DOUBLE QUESTION

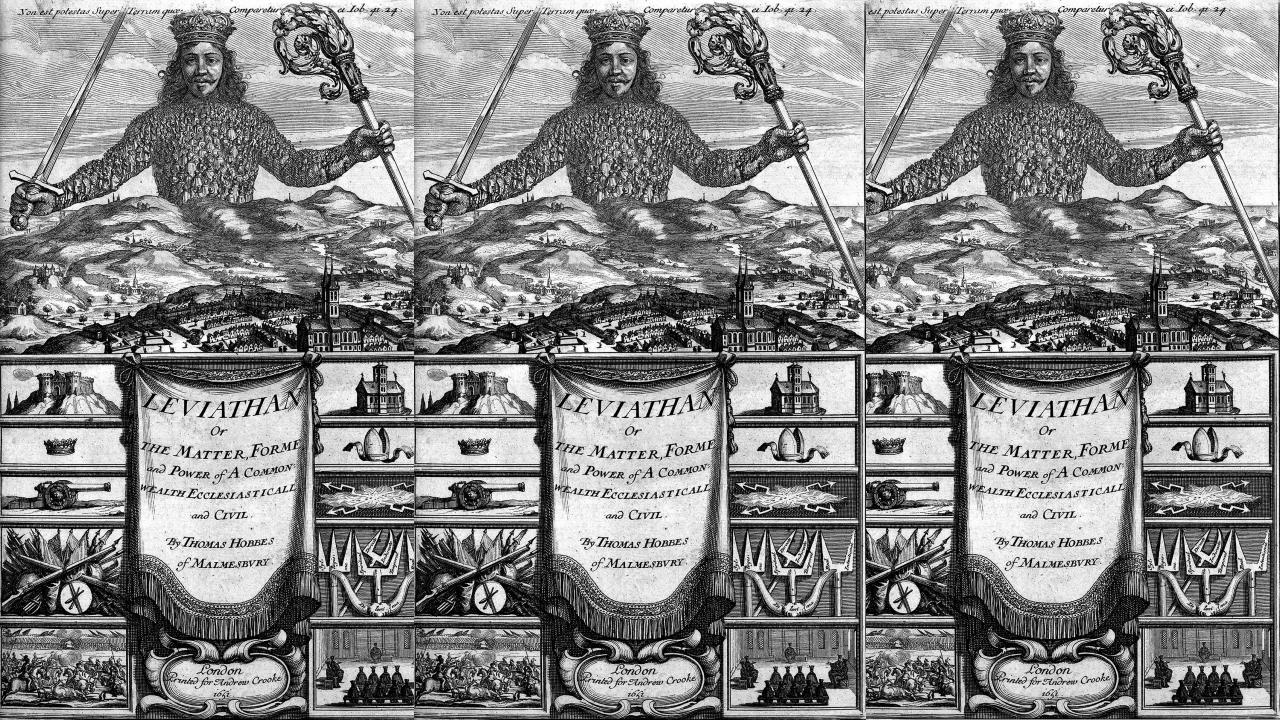
(1) WHO OR WHAT SHOULD BE SOVEREIGN?

(2) HOW IS ONE DIGITALLY SOVREIGN?

Individual, state, organization, company, cybserspace...?

Territorially, legally, identity, geopolitically, technologically, security...?

Adler-Nissen and Eggeling (2024) "Three Concepts of Digital Sovereignty", Journal of Common Market Studies



#### TRANSLATING AI SOVEREIGNTY INTO PRACTICE

**Technology** 

**Application** 

Model

Orchestraction

Infrastructure

Control

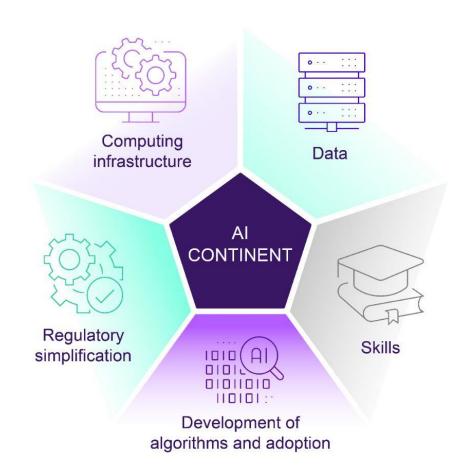
Ownership

Regulation

Capacity

## AI CONTINENT PLAN FOR THE EU

Digital omnibus





WHICH OF THESE CONCEPTIONS ARE WINNING?

We see now combination of market cosmopolitanism and strategic autonomy with rights taking a background