AI, Diplomacy, and Geopolitics

Different Approaches to Artificial Intelligence

USA, China, and the European Union

From education to startups, from national strategies to legislation



Comparative Analysis of Global AI Governance

AI as a Strategic Global Asset

Comparing the core strategic priorities behind global AI governance

USA

Innovation

Private-sector leadership and market speed.

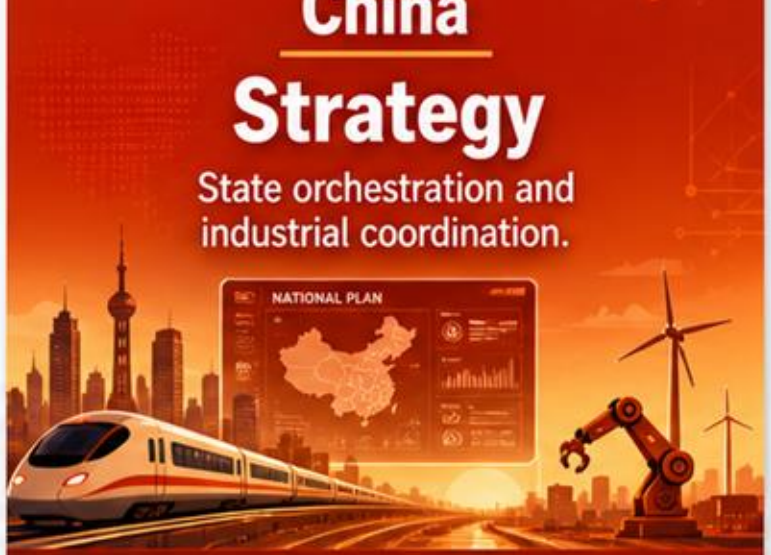


- Startups
- Markets
- Technology
- Global Competition

China

Strategy

State orchestration and industrial coordination.



- Industrial Policy
- Infrastructure
- Coordination
- National Strength

EU

Rights

Regulation and human-centric trustworthiness.



- Rule of Law
- Fundamental Rights
- Transparency
- Citizen Protection

Thesis Statement: Global AI governance reflects divergent political visions: the USA prioritizes innovation, China prioritizes state power, and the EU prioritizes the rule of law.

Three Models of Governance

Comparing the strategic logics behind AI governance

Innovation-First

UNITED STATES

Treat AI as a commercial engine to maintain global competitiveness.



- Innovation
- Venture Capital
- Markets
- Global Competitiveness

State-Driven

CHINA

Align technology with national development and societal control.



- National Strategy
- Infrastructure & Industry
- Coordinated Development
- Societal Control

Human-Centric

EUROPEAN UNION

Ensure AI remains ethical, safe, and transparent for citizens.



- Human Rights
- Safety & Security
- Transparency & Accountability
- Citizen Trust

Market Logic | **State Logic** | **Rights Logic**

European Union

Human-Centric and Trustworthy AI

The EU model centers on Trustworthy AI and the protection of democratic values.



1. Fundamental Values

The EU model centers on Trustworthy AI, ensuring systems respect human dignity and democratic values.



2. Transparency of Algorithms

AI systems should be explainable and understandable. People have the right to know how decisions are made.



3. Data Privacy and Protection

Strong data protection safeguards individual rights and ensures secure, responsible use of personal data.



4. Accountability for AI Providers

Clear responsibilities and robust governance ensure compliance, oversight, and redress.

TRUSTWORTHY AI. STRONGER DEMOCRACY. BETTER EUROPE.

European Union

EU AI Act: Core Framework

The EU AI Act (2024) is the world's first comprehensive legal framework for Artificial Intelligence, adopting a **risk-based approach.**



2020

White Paper on Artificial Intelligence

2021

Initial AI Act Proposal drafted

2024

Official Adoption by Parliament

2026

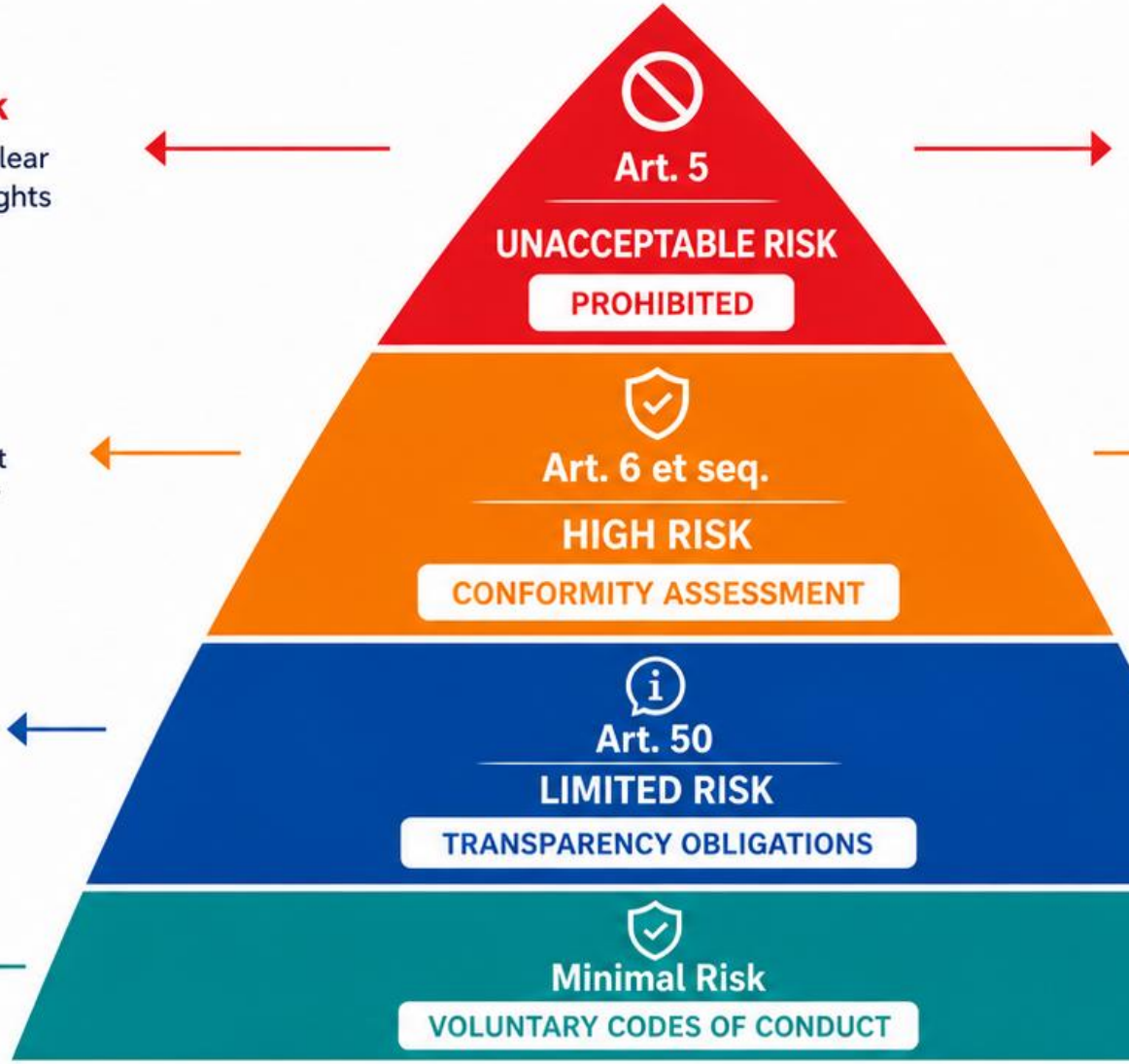
Full implementation and enforcement

- Protect Fundamental Rights & Safety
- Ensure Transparency & Accountability
- Promote Trustworthy & Human-Centric AI
- Support Innovation in the EU

Rule of Law | Good Governance | Human Dignity | Trust & Responsibility

EUROPEAN UNION

EU AI ACT – RISK CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK



Unacceptable Risk

AI systems that pose a clear threat to fundamental rights and values.

- Social scoring
- Real-time biometric surveillance (with limited exceptions)
- Manipulative or exploitative AI
- Dark patterns

High Risk

AI systems with significant impact on health, safety or fundamental rights.

- Education
- Employment / recruitment
- Law enforcement
- Migration & border control
- Justice systems

Limited Risk

AI systems that interact with users must be transparent.

- Chatbots
- Deepfakes
- Emotion recognition systems

Minimal Risk

AI systems with minimal or no impact on fundamental rights.

- Spam filters
- Video games and other low-risk applications

The EU AI Act takes a **risk-based approach:** the higher the risk, the stricter the obligations.
Aim: ensure trustworthy AI that respects fundamental rights and fosters innovation.

★ European Union ★

Building a European Ecosystem

Turning research into market-ready innovation for a competitive, innovative and sovereign Europe.

Skills

Digital Europe Programme for AI training and data literacy.



Research

Horizon Europe initiatives bridging academia and industry.



From Research to Market

- Research-to-market gap
- Market-ready innovation
- Support for startups
- European Innovation Council (EIC)
- Funding & investment
- High-risk, high-impact AI

Startups

MISTRAL AI_

ALEPH ALPHA

EU digital sovereignty

Research → **Innovation** → **Sovereign AI** → **Startups**

EU VALUES	INCLUSION	TRUST	SUSTAINABILITY	COMPETITIVENESS
Trustworthy AI	Empowering People	Safe & Ethical AI	Green & Responsible	Global Leadership

STRONGER TOGETHER.
SOVEREIGN TOGETHER.

The American Approach

INNOVATION. CAPITAL. LEADERSHIP. IMPACT.

1. Innovation-First

Prioritizing market speed over rigid preemptive rules.

2. Capital Density

Driven by venture capital and elite university R&D.



3. Private Leadership

Leading the frontier of Large Language Models.



4. Core Identity

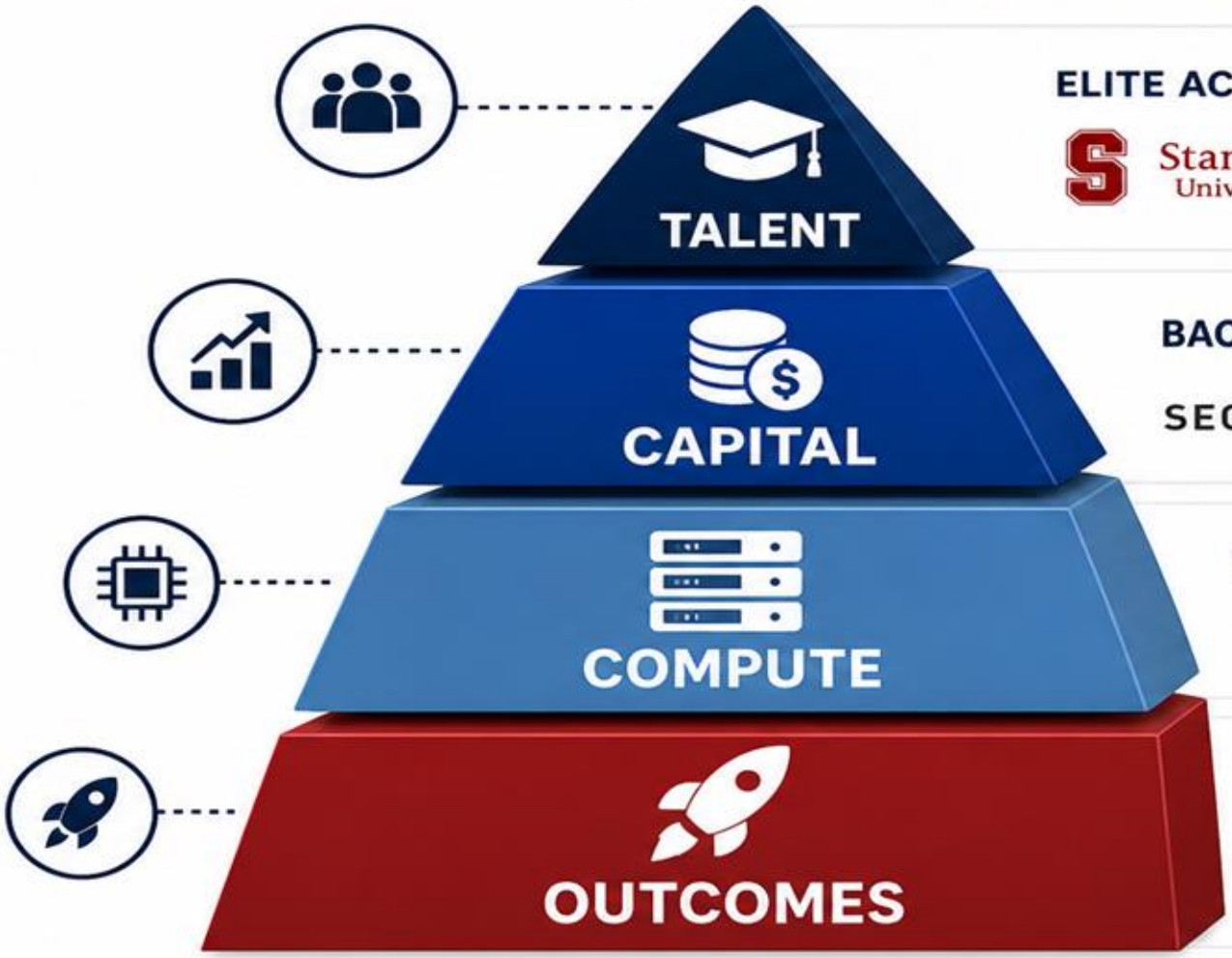
Market-driven global tech leadership.



TALENT, CAPITAL, AND COMPUTE

The Academic Engine

The US relies on a concentrated talent pipeline from institutions like Stanford, MIT, and CMU, backed by massive private investment.



ELITE ACADEMIC PIPELINE

Stanford University | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Carnegie Mellon University

BACKED BY MASSIVE PRIVATE INVESTMENT

SEQUOIA | andressen. horowitz | Accel | TIGER GLOBAL

WORLD-CLASS COMPUTE INFRASTRUCTURE

NVIDIA | aws | Microsoft Azure

- **RESEARCH ACCESS:** National AI Research Resource (NAIRR) — NAIRR National AI Research Resource
- **STARTUPS:** OpenAI, Anthropic, and the xAI ecosystem — OpenAI | ANTHROP\C | xAI

A VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF TALENT, CAPITAL, AND COMPUTE DRIVING AMERICAN AI LEADERSHIP

Strategic Support, Fragmented Regulation

INFRASTRUCTURE. STANDARDS. INNOVATION.

UNITED STATES

1. CHIPS and Science Act

A strategic shift toward industrial policy, securing the physical foundations of AI: semiconductors and advanced computing.



2. NIST AI Risk Framework

A national framework for identifying, assessing, and managing AI risks.



3. Voluntary Corporate Standards

Non-binding guidance and industry-led practices shaping responsible AI development.



THE CHINESE STATE-LED STRATEGY

AI as a pillar of national rejuvenation and global leadership



1. NATIONAL GOALS

AI is a top priority for achieving technological self-reliance and becoming a global leader by 2030.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Next Generation AI Development Plan
- Made in China 2025
- 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025)

2. COORDINATION

State oversight ensures alignment between private firms, research institutions, and public goals.

HOW IT WORKS

- Central planning and policy direction
- Strategic funding and industrial support
- Public–private partnerships

3. POLITICAL CONTROL

Technology must reinforce social and political stability and support the governing system.

KEY MECHANISMS

- Pervasive surveillance and data collection
- Content moderation and censorship
- AI used for governance and social management

THE RESULT: A STATE-LED ECOSYSTEM THAT PRIORITIZES CONTROL, SCALE, AND SELF-RELIANCE TO SECURE CHINA'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE IN AI.

MASS SCALE AND RAPID DEPLOYMENT

Infrastructure Pipeline

China leverages its manufacturing base and massive datasets to deploy AI at scale across industries.

★ ★ ★



1. TALENT PIPELINE

Building AI capability from the ground up

K-12 AI CURRICULUM
AI education integrated from primary school to high school.

SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY MAJORS
Hundreds of universities offer AI-related majors and research programs.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE AT SCALE

Unmatched scale across data, compute, and manufacturing

MASSIVE DATASETS
Large population and digital ecosystem generate unparalleled data.

COMPUTE INFRASTRUCTURE
Government-backed data centers and supercomputing clusters expanding rapidly.

MANUFACTURING POWER
Deep integration of AI into industrial and supply chain ecosystems.

3. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Strong domestic tech leaders driving AI innovation and application

Baidu 百度 — Search, autonomous driving, AI cloud

Alibaba — E-commerce, cloud, enterprise AI

Tencent 腾讯 — Social, gaming, AI applications

ByteDance 字节跳动 — Content platforms, AI algorithms

NEW ARRIVALS

deepseek — Large language models, AI research

ZHIPU·AI — LLMs, generative AI, industry solutions

FROM EDUCATION TO INDUSTRY:
A FULL-STACK PIPELINE THAT POWERS CHINA'S AI LEADERSHIP

EDUCATE → TRAIN → DEPLOY → SCALE IMPACT

The Three Models Compared

A concise comparison of the three AI governance approaches.

Dimension	USA	China	EU
Main Logic	Innovation-first	State-led strategy	Rights-based
Dominant Actor	Big Tech / VC	State / Champions	Regulators
Regulation	Voluntary / State-level	Targeted Control	EU AI Act (Hard Law)
Strength	Speed & Capital	Scale & Execution	Trust & Clarity
Weakness	Fragmentation	Political Constraint	Innovation Friction

USA = Innovation · **China = Strategy** · **EU = Rights**

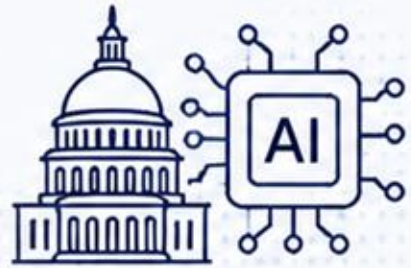
Academic Research Questions

Key questions guiding the comparative analysis of AI governance

01 Does the EU AI Act safeguard rights without inhibiting breakthrough innovation?



02 Can the US maintain a leading ecosystem without a unified federal law?



03 Will China's domestic computing constraints affect its global AI leadership?



Methodology: Policy Analysis

Research design for the comparative analysis of AI governance

01 Document Review

Review of EU AI Act, CHIPS Act, and national guidelines.

02 Comparative Study

Cross-regional analysis of startup and patent data.

03 Case Assessment

Analysis of firms like OpenAI, Baidu, and Mistral.

Policy Documents → **Cross-Regional Comparison** → **Firm-Level Cases**

This methodology combines legal analysis, comparative evidence, and firm-level case studies.

Expected Findings

Projected outcomes of the comparative analysis of AI governance

USA

Main Finding

Dominant in foundation models

Qualifier

Regulatory void poses legal risks

China

Main Finding

Exceptional industrial deployment

Qualifier

Limited by state data controls

EU

Main Finding

Global gold standard for ethical AI

Qualifier

Higher compliance costs for SMEs

Outcome

AI governance is a tool of geopolitical ientity.

USA = Innovation

China = Deployment

EU = Ethics

AI, Diplomacy, and Geopolitics

Thank You for Your Attention

AI

Questions?

USA
INNOVATION

CHINA
STATE STRATEGY

EUROPEAN UNION
REGULATION & RIGHTS

Comparative Analysis of Global AI Governance

Made by: Aziz Abid, Caterina Ferri, Fabio Lamboia, Luca Coelingh, Sara Stigliano, Vittoria Rose Valerio.

Selected References

European Union

- European Parliament & Council of the European Union. (2024). Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act). Official Journal of the European Union. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj
- Nizzolino, S. (2026). Artificial Intelligence in the European approach to Education: Perspectives, perceptions, and mistrust [Intelligenza Artificiale nell'approccio europeo all'educazione: Prospettive, percezioni e diffidenze]. Faculty of Information Engineering, "La Sapienza" University of Rome. https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3008-2890
- European Commission. (2024). Supporting the apply AI strategy: AI start-up and investment activity across 10 key industrial sectors. Shaping Europe's Digital Future. https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/supporting-apply-ai-strategy-ai-start-and-investment-activity-across-10-key-industrial-sectors
- Ruschemeier, H., & Bareis, J. (2025). Searching for harmonised rules: Understanding the paradigms, provisions and pressing issues in the final EU AI Act. In Gsenger & Sekwenz (Eds.), Digital Decade: How the EU shapes digitalisation research. Nomos.

United States

- National Institute of Standards and Technology. (2023). Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0). U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Link: https://www.nist.gov/publications/artificial-intelligence-risk-management-framework-ai-rmf-10 PDF: https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ai/NIST.AI.100-1.pdf
- The White House. (2025). America's AI Action Plan. Link: https://www.ai.gov/action-plan PDF: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Americas-AI-Action-Plan.pdf
- The White House. (2025). Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth. Link ufficiale White House: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/advancing-artificial-intelligence-education-for-american-youth/ Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/28/2025-07368/advancing-artificial-intelligence-education-for-american-youth
- National Science Foundation. (2025). National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource. Link: https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/nairr
- Maslej, N., Fattorini, L., Perrault, R., Parli, V., Reuel, A., Brynjolfsson, E.,Etchemendy, J., Ligett, K., Lyons, T., Manyika, J., Niebles, J. C., Shoham, Y., Wald, R., & Clark, J. (2025). *The AI Index 2025 Annual Report.* Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence. Link: https://hai.stanford.edu/ai-index/2025-ai-index-report PDF: https://hai-production.s3.amazonaws.com/files/hai_ai_index_report_2025.pdf
- Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence. (2022). *What the CHIPS and Science Act Means for Artificial Intelligence.* Link: https://hai.stanford.edu/policy/what-the-chips-and-science-act-means-for-artificial-intelligence PDF: https://hai-production.s3.amazonaws.com/files/2022-08/HAI%20Explainer%20-%20What%20The%20CHIPS%20and%20Science%20Act%20Means%20for%20AI.pdf
- ***Microsoft. (2023). Microsoft and OpenAI extend partnership. Link: https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2023/01/23/microsoftandopenaiextendpartnership/***
- ***OpenAI. (2025). Announcing The Stargate Project. Link: https://openai.com/index/announcing-the-stargate-project/***
- ***NVIDIA. (2025). NVIDIA to Manufacture American-Made AI Supercomputers in U.S. for First Time. Link: https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/nvidia-manufacture-american-made-ai-supercomputers-us/***
- ***Amazon. (2026). Amazon and Anthropic expand strategic collaboration. Link: https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/company-news/amazon-invests-additional-5-billion-anthropic-ai***
- ***Colorado General Assembly. (2024). SB24-205: Consumer Protections for Artificial Intelligence. Link: https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-205 Bill PDF: https://leg.colorado.gov/bill_files/47770/download***
- ***Reuters. (2026). Elon Musk's xAI sues Colorado over state's new AI law. Link: https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/elon-musks-xai-sues-colorado-over-states-new-ai-law-2026-04-09/***

China

- ***State Council of China (2017). New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan. Link: https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/full-translation-chinas-new-generation-artificial-intelligence-development-plan-2017/***
- ***National People's Congress (2026). 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030). Link: https://npcobserver.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/15th-Five-Year-Plan-Draft_NON-FINAL.pdf Analysis: https://digichina.stanford.edu/work/forum-technology-in-chinas-15th-five-year-plan/***
- ***RAND Corporation (2025). Full Stack: China's Evolving Industrial Policy for AI. Link: https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA4012-1.html***
- ***U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (2026). Two Loops: How China's Open AI Strategy Reinforces Its Industrial Dominance. Link: https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/Two_Loops--How_Chinas_Open_AI_Strategy_Reinforces_Its_Industrial_Dominance.pdf***
- ***The Diplomat (2026). The Global Implications of China's 5-Year Plan AI Ambitions. Link: https://thediplomat.com/2026/03/the-global-implications-of-chinas-5-year-plan-ai-ambitions/***
- ***Stanford DigiChina Project (ongoing) – Primary source translations for Chinese AI regulations. Link: https://digichina.stanford.edu/***