

# 9.1 - Foreign Policy

## Artificial Intelligence Policy

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S2026

### Reorienting and Taking Stock

- We are halfway through the class!
- Today, we'll talk about geopolitics and foreign policy, but also recenter ourselves after the first half of the course (and after the week off).
- Where have we been, and what have we learned?
  
- As we make our transition from talking about the philosophy, technology, and development of AI to talking about implications and impacts, what has been surprising?
  
- Where do we *most* need policy, and what areas of AI most call out for intervention or support?

### Think

- *What is AI's role in national defense and security?*
- *What responsibility do AI firms have to their "home" countries? Are they like defense contractors? Should the government have a special role in controlling AI technology and approving AI military technology sales?*

### Read

- Horowitz et al, "[AI, the International Balance of Power, and National Security Strategy](#)". *The Oxford Handbook of AI Governance*
- Make sure to be familiar with the Anthropic/Department of Defense story for class discussion (see possible sources below).

### Listen:

- Nothing required, but see the two (optional) recommended podcasts on Anthropic and the Pentagon under “ Browse”

### Browse:

- The recent Anthropic/Pentagon dustup is relevant and interesting from a variety of dimensions.
  - The core story:
    - \* [“Anthropic Refuses Pentagon’s Proposal to Loosen AI Guardrails](#). Wall Street Journal.
    - \* [OpenAI announces Pentagon deal after Trump bans Anthropic](#). NPR.
    - \* [Pentagon Officially Notifies Anthropic It Is a ‘Supply Chain Risk’](#). New York Times.
    - \* [A ‘Fight About Vibes’ Drove the Pentagon’s Breakup with Anthropic](#). Wall Street Journal.
    - \* [Anthropic Sues U.S. Defense Department, Pete Hegseth for Targeting the Company](#). Wall Street Journal.
    - \* [A Guide to the Pentagon’s Dance With Anthropic and OpenAI](#). New York Times.
  - A counter take: [Anthropic and Alignment](#), 2026. Stratechery blog.
  - Side effects:
    - \* [The Pentagon-Anthropic Spat Is Good for China](#) Wall Street Journal.
    - \* [Anthropic’s Standoff With the Pentagon Shakes Up AI Talent Race](#) Wall Street Journal.
    - \* [OpenAI and Google employees rush to Anthropic’s defense in DOD lawsuit](#). Tech Crunch.
  - Two podcasts:
    - \* Dean Ball, 2026. [“Why the Pentagon Wants to Destroy Anthropic”](#), *The Ezra Klein Show*, New York Times. Also see [Youtube link](#)
    - \* Mike Masnick, 2026. [“Anthropic doesn’t trust the Pentagon, and neither should you”](#), *Decoder* with Nilay Patel, The Verge. Also see [Youtube video link](#)
- [“What Google’s Return to Defense AI Means”](#). Defense One.
- [“Elon Musk Moves Against the Russians in Ukraine”](#). The Atlantic.

### Tip

- “ Read”, “ Listen”, and/or “ Watch” items are required content for the day, and should be read/heard/watched before class on that day.
- “ Browse” items should be briefly looked at but do not need to be read deeply

unless you want to

- “ Additional Resources” do not need to be looked at; they are there to serve, if useful, as further references for your debates, final projects, and general edification later.