

**Badji Mokhtar University Annaba**

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**Level : M1**

**Mediterranea Studies**

**Text :**

### **The Political Implications of AI in Military Applications**

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into military systems represents one of the most significant shifts in modern defense policy and global security. Nations around the world are investing heavily in AI-driven technologies, seeing them as essential to maintaining strategic advantages in intelligence gathering, cyber defense, and autonomous weapons development. However, this technological advancement is not without controversy, raising complex political, ethical, and security-related issues. AI is increasingly being used to process vast amounts of data for intelligence and surveillance, enabling faster and more accurate decision-making. In combat scenarios, AI can assist in identifying targets, analyzing threats, and even piloting drones or autonomous vehicles without direct human control. This automation promises increased operational efficiency and the potential to reduce casualties among military personnel. However, it also introduces the risk of dehumanizing warfare and reducing accountability for the use of force. One of the most contentious aspects of AI in the military is the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). These are systems that can select and engage targets without human intervention. Critics argue that delegating life-and-death decisions to machines undermines international humanitarian law and could lead to violations of human rights. Moreover, without clear international regulation, there is a real danger of an AI arms race, where states feel compelled to develop increasingly sophisticated and potentially destabilizing technologies just to keep pace with rival powers. Politically, the use of AI in the military also shifts the balance of power. Countries with advanced AI capabilities can dominate not only the battlefield but also global cybersecurity, communications, and information warfare. This imbalance could exacerbate global tensions, especially if smaller or less technologically developed nations feel threatened or excluded from AI-related negotiations and alliances.

As AI continues to evolve, it is essential for the international community to engage in serious dialogue about its military applications. Transparent standards, treaties, and ethical frameworks are urgently needed to ensure that AI enhances security without compromising moral responsibility or global stability. Without

such measures, the promise of AI in the military could quickly become a threat to peace and democratic values.

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What are some of the military uses of AI mentioned in the text?
2. Why are lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) considered controversial?
3. What is one potential benefit of using AI in military operations?
4. According to the text, how might AI in the military affect smaller or less developed nations?
5. What is the main political concern about the use of AI in warfare?

### Critical Thinking / Discussion Questions:

6. Do you think AI should be allowed to make decisions about life and death in war? Why or why not?
7. Can international treaties effectively regulate the use of AI in the military? What challenges might arise?
8. How could the use of AI in the military influence global power dynamics?
9. Should countries prioritize the development of AI for defense purposes, or focus more on its civilian applications?
10. What ethical principles should guide the development of military AI systems?

### Vocabulary / Language Questions:

11. What does the term “dehumanizing warfare” mean in this context?
12. Explain the meaning of “AI arms race” as used in the text.
13. What is meant by “transparent standards” in the final paragraph?

### Paraphrasing Questions:

1. Paraphrase the following sentence:  
*“AI is increasingly being used to process vast amounts of data for intelligence and surveillance, enabling faster and more accurate decision-making.”*
2. Rephrase this part in your own words:  
*“Lethal autonomous weapons systems are systems that can select and engage targets without human intervention.”*
3. Rewrite the sentence using simpler language:  
*“Transparent standards, treaties, and ethical frameworks are urgently*

*needed to ensure that AI enhances security without compromising moral responsibility.”*

4. How would you say this idea differently:  
*“Delegating life-and-death decisions to machines undermines international humanitarian law.”*

### Summarizing Questions:

5. Summarize the main idea of the entire text in 2–3 sentences.
6. What are the key political concerns mentioned in the text about using AI in the military?
7. In one sentence, summarize how AI might change global power dynamics according to the text.
8. What are the benefits and risks of using AI in military contexts, summarized in a few bullet points?
9. Write a brief summary focusing only on the ethical issues raised in the text.

### Synonym Questions:

1. What is a synonym for **"controversial"** as used in the text?
2. Find a word in the text that means the same as **"enhance"**.
3. What is another word for **"threat"** in the sentence: *“...could quickly become a threat to peace and democratic values”*?
4. Which word in the text could be replaced with **"conflict"** without changing the meaning?
5. What word could you use instead of **"autonomous"** that has a similar meaning?

### Opposite (Antonym) Questions:

6. What is the opposite of **"accountability"**?
7. Which word is the opposite of **"transparent"** in the phrase *“transparent standards, treaties, and ethical frameworks”*?
8. Find a word in the text that is the opposite of **"reduce"**, and explain how it's used.
9. What is an antonym for **"advantage"** in a military context?
10. Give the opposite of **"stable"** as it relates to global or political stability.