UNCLASSIFIED

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NEED TO KNOW

Need to Know is an unclassified open-source, multi-platform media collation, produced by **CSIS Academic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement**, on issues considered relevant to Canada's broad national security interests. The objective is to highlight and share a diverse array of perspectives on Canadian and global security matters, with a focus on emerging developments and sources of expertise across disciplines. Inclusion of a document, source, expert or event does not constitute endorsement by, or affiliation with, CSIS.

From ChatGPT to Deepfakes: Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Democracy in 2024

Artificial Intelligence's Threat to Democracy – In addition to providing a thorough explanation of the threats of generative AI for democracy, this article highlights a number of possible safeguards to defend democratic institutions from increasingly disruptive AI-powered technologies. The authors situate the position of generative AI in a rapidly-evolving geopolitical environment, *Foreign Affairs*. Read the article.

Generating Democracy: AI and the Coming Revolution in Political Communications – What does the development of generative AI mean for political communication? In this article, experts dive into the implications of generative AI tools for the future of political marketing and communications. The authors highlight the risks and benefits of AI use in political campaigns. They also provide recommendations for political parties, lawmakers, and industry professionals to ensure an ethical and transparent implementation of generative AI in the political environment, *Demos*. Read the article.

The Impact of Generative AI in a Global Election Year – The author of this research article assesses the impact of generative AI in the information space of elections. The article dives into what generative AI is and how it can be used to undermine democratic discourse. The author further explores the potential influence of generative AI on the several important elections happening in 2024 including the Presidential Election in the US and the general election in India. The report proposes strategies that ought to be implemented to defend the information space during this crucial election year, *The Brookings Institution*. Read the article.

Podcasts of Note

PolicyCast

In this episode of Harvard's PolicyCast podcast, Adjunct Lecturer Bruce Schneier explores the potential of AI to transform the democratic process for better or for worse.

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Lawfare Podcast

In this episode of the Lawfare Podcast, experts discuss how generative AI will reshape the political and electoral landscapes.
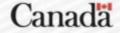
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This is Democracy

In episode 184 of the *This is Democracy* podcast, host Professor Jeremi Suri discusses the future of democracy in light of the AI revolution.

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Keeping it Real: How to Spot a Deepfake? – This article sets out on a deep dive into the world of deepfakes. What are they? How are they made? And, more importantly, why are they made? The author provides key answers to these questions and suggests clear steps to help protect yourself from deepfakes, *The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)*. Read the article.

The Security Concerns of AI – This brief reports on the challenges of implementing the Biden administration's executive order on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and raises security concerns in the race for AI innovations. The author argues that developping AI is important, but so is being ready to defend from sophisticated AI-driven attacks, *The Cipher Brief*. Read the article.

How Generative AI Threatens Democracy – This research note investigates the role of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT on the credibility of automated misinformation campaigns. Leveraging a unique field experiment with 7,200 legislators, the authors highlight some important policy implications for generative AI, *Journal of Democracy*. Read the article.

The Consequences of Generative AI for Democracy, Governance and War – In this research article, Steven Feldstein examines the short- and medium-term risks of generative AI models for democratic governance and military operations. Focusing on concrete and identifiable threats, the author proposes fresh outlook on the role of AI in the democratic and military environment, *Global Politics and Strategy*. Read the article.

See also: Top AI Developments of 2023, *Forbes*, Read the article; **Generative AI Will Go Mainstream in 2024**, *The Economist*, Read the article; and **Generative AI Like ChatGPT Could Help Boost Democracy**, *The Conversation*, Read the article.

Upcoming Events

Book Launch: Cold War 2.0: Artificial Intelligence in the New Battle Between China, Russia, and America, by George S. Takach Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy (Toronto) Register here. Event in Toronto (Hybrid).	6 March, 2024
The Dangers Posed by AI and Disinformation During Elections The Brookings Institution (Washington DC) Register here. Event in Washington DC (Hybrid).	13 March, 2024
Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence 2024 Spring Symposium Series Stanford University (Stanford) Register here. Event in Stanford, California.	25-27 March, 2024
Decoding Democracy: Political Narrative, AI and Elections in 2024 The Empire Club of Canada (Toronto) Register here. Event in Toronto.	5 March, 2024

Diversions

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