

GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2020 EDITION

America's uneven approach to AI and its consequences

Acronyms and abbreviations

AI—Artificial Intelligence

CCTV—Closed-circuit television

FTC—Federal Trade Commission

GDPR—General Data Protection Regulation

JCORE—Joint Committee on Research Environments

MIT—Massachusetts Institute of Technology

NGO—Non-governmental organization

NSF—National Science Foundation

OECD—Organization for Economic Cooperation

OSTP—Office of Science and Technology Policy

Glossary

AI Firms: are companies that deal in the creation of AI software programs.

American AI Initiative: is an executive order signed by President Trump on February 11, 2019, that creates the initiative to spur the growth of AI firms in the United States.

Artificial intelligence: refers to computer systems and programs that can sense and learn from their environment, similarly to how a human uses natural intelligence.

Christchurch Call to Action Summit: a political summit that took place in Paris on May 15, 2019. The summit included heads of state and leaders of multinational tech companies, who addressed concerns regarding extremist or terrorist content on the internet. The summit was called after the mosque shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, on May 15, 2019.

Data: large sets of information that is used as reference or for analysis.

The National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan: is a plan developed under the Obama administration that sets objectives for federally funded AI research. Strategies include long-term investments in AI research, developing shared public datasets and environments for AI training, and ensuring the safety and security of AI systems. The goal of the plan is to provide “a range of positive benefits to society, while minimizing the negative impacts.

OceanMind: is a not-for-profit organization that works with governments, NGOs and fisheries and uses AI technology to monitor global fish populations and provide important data to prevent overfishing.

Open AI: is an AI firm founded in San Francisco, CA, in 2015. Open AI performs research toward promoting AI systems that would “benefit humanity as a whole.”

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act: refers to the piece of legislation that sets the precedent regarding internet providers’ liability regarding what is published on websites. According to *Zeran v. AOL* in 1997, Section 230 “creates a federal immunity to any cause of action that would make service providers liable for information originating with a third-party user of the service.”

Table 1
G-20 AI plans
as of August 2019

Argentina	No strategy
Australia	No strategy
Brazil	No strategy
Canada	2017
China	2017
France	2018
Germany	2019
India	2018
Indonesia	No strategy
Italy	2018
Japan	2017
Mexico	2018
Rep. of Korea	2017
South Africa	No strategy
Russia	No strategy
Saudi Arabia	No strategy
Turkey	No strategy
UK	2018
U.S.	2019
EU	2018

SOURCE: THOMAS STRUETT, DIGITAL TRADE AND DATA GOVERNANCE HUB, GWU