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**“The role of AI in terrorism
expansion and in countering
terrorism”**

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I. Context and Historical background

There is a general tendency among counterterrorism analysts to understate rather than hyperbolize terrorists' technological adaptations. In 2011 and 2012, most believed that the "Arab Spring" revolutions would marginalize jihadist movements. But within four years, jihadists had attracted a record number of foreign fighters to the Syrian battlefield, in part by using the same social media mobilization techniques that protesters had employed to challenge dictators like Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Hosni Mubarak, and Muammar Gaddafi.

Militant groups later combined easy accessibility to operatives via social media with new advances in encryption to create the "virtual planner" model of terrorism. This model allows online operatives to provide the same offerings that were once the domain of physical networks, including recruitment, coordinating the target and timing of attacks, and even providing technical assistance on topics like bomb-making.

Necessity to counter terrorism: Lone-wolf terrorism is on the rise and often perpetuated through high-production-value propaganda on the web. The UK Home Office has successfully encouraged the large online content platforms to invest in automated detection technology that can spot and remove these videos. However, the videos remain available on a large number of smaller video hosting platforms, which do not have the AI expertise or the resources necessary to develop their own detection capabilities. How can these companies play a role in the fight against terror?

Collaborating with the UK Home Office Counter Terrorism Unit, ASI Data Science built a tool that removes extremist propaganda from the web. Drawing on this experience, Marc Warner details a platform-agnostic algorithm that can detect and flag up extremist propaganda for review. This work is evidence of the impact AI can have on national security and the part tech firms, large and small, have to play in the fight against terrorism.

II. Key words

Terrorism: Terrorism is, in the broadest sense, the use of intentionally indiscriminate violence as a means to create terror among masses of people; or fear to achieve a religious or political aim. It is used in this regard primarily to refer to violence against peacetime targets or in war against non-combatants.

Djihad: a holy war waged on behalf of Islam as a religious duty

Artificial Intelligence: It corresponds to the capacity of a non-human form to behave like a human and to produce a thought by reasoning

III. Questions to consider

- In what ways could AI help counter terrorist threats worldwide ?
- How to reduce the Djihad joining thanks to AI ?

IV. Bibliography and useful links

- <https://conferences.oreilly.com/artificial-intelligence/ai-eu-2018/public/schedule/detail/70263>
- <https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/05/terrorists-are-going-use-artificial-intelligence/147944/>
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