

Why AI Is Becoming a Diplomatic Issue

How advanced AI moved from labs to statecraft — facts and futures



01

FRAMING

From Technology to Diplomacy

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WHY IT MATTERS

AI has crossed from research into the domain of national strategy, reshaping how states negotiate power.

- ▶ AI capability now shapes national power.
- ▶ Governments treat models like strategic assets.
- ▶ Talks now span trade, security, and ethics.
- ▶ A new arena for international negotiation.

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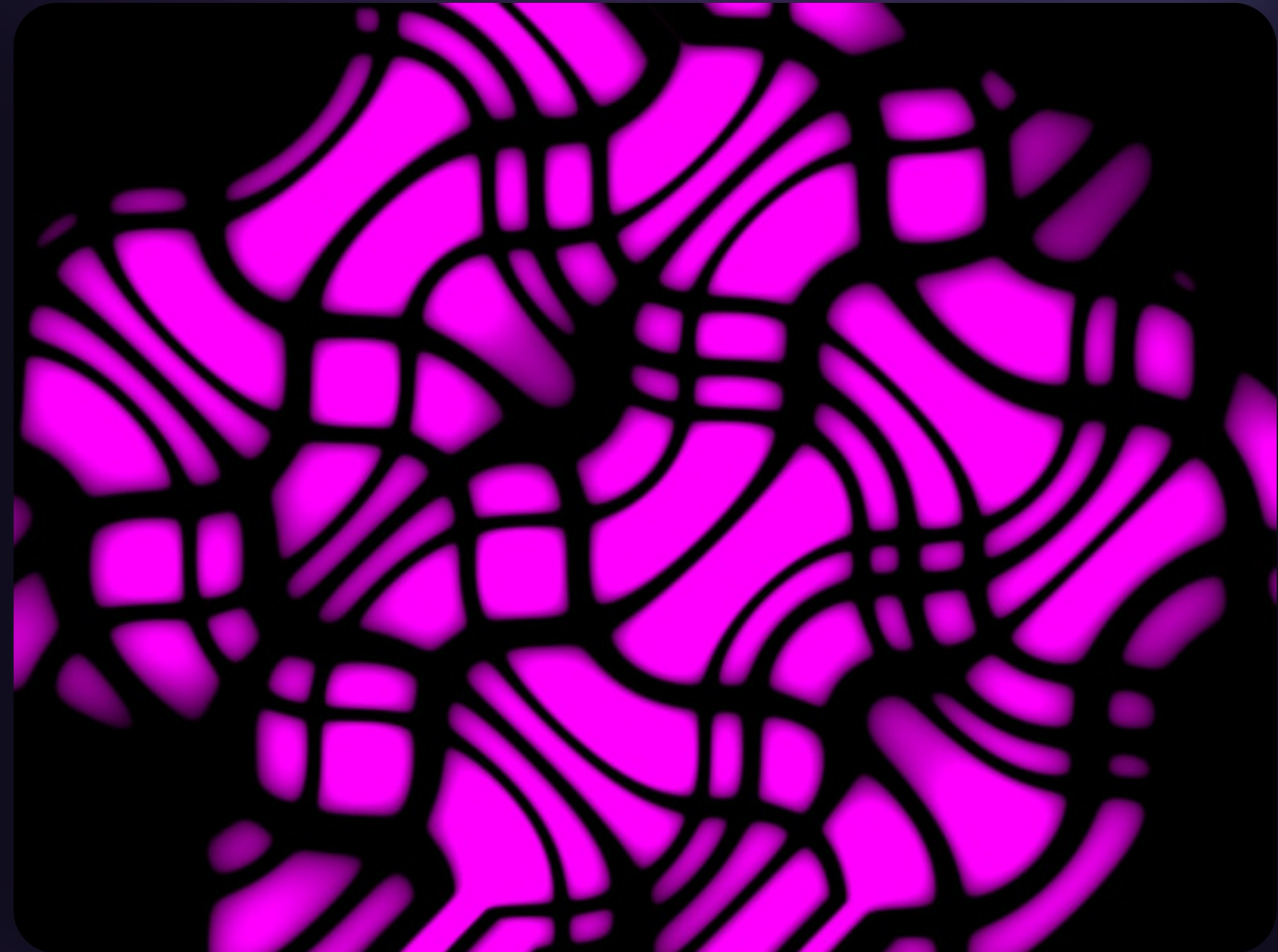
CAPABILITY LEVERS

Frontier Models and Advanced Chips

Frontier Models: The Strategic Frontier

CONCENTRATED POWER

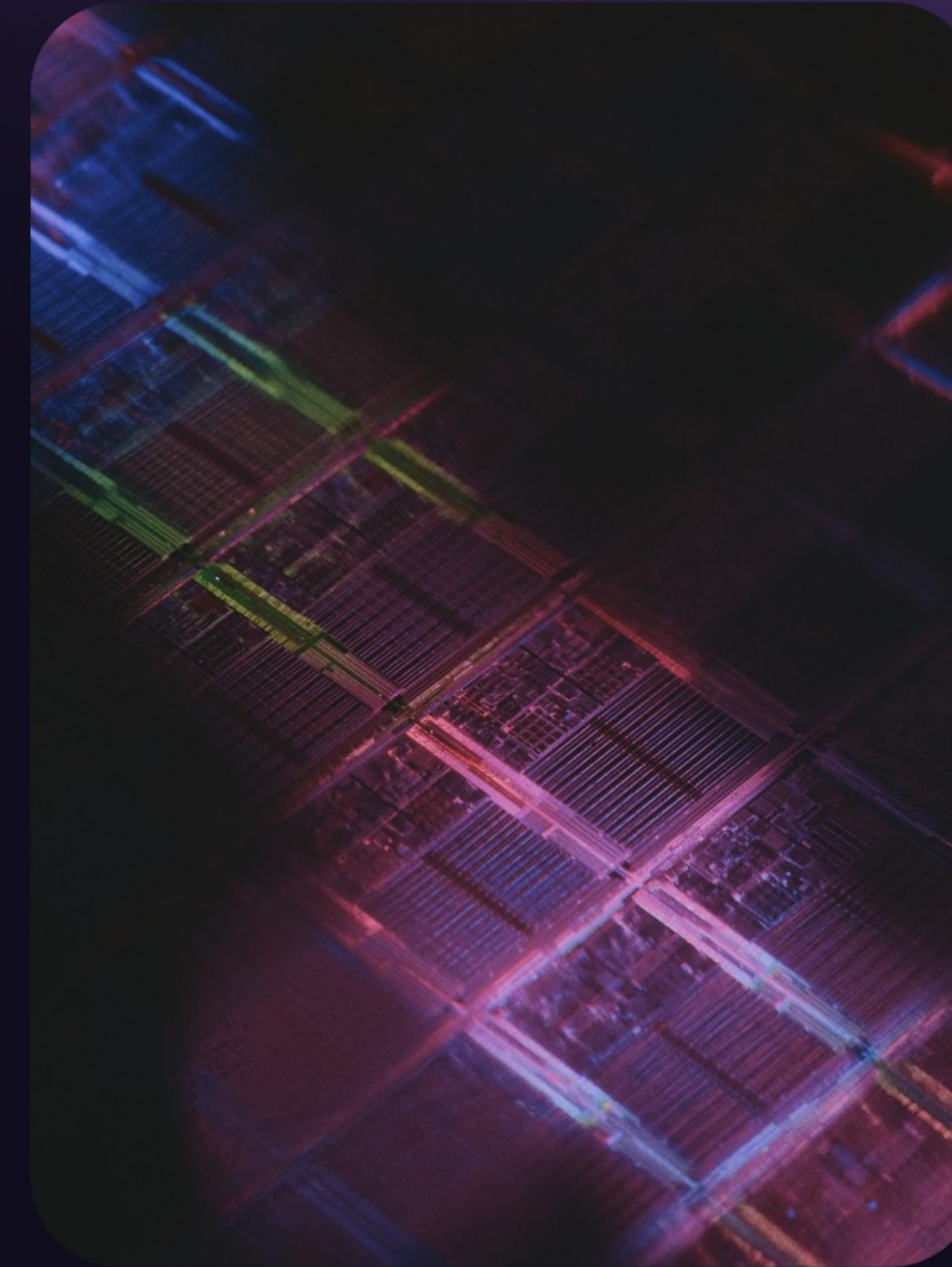
The largest models demand rare compute and talent, so few labs and nations hold the lead. Dual-use capabilities push states to seek oversight of frontier development.



Advanced Chips as Leverage

SUPPLY CHAIN CHOKEPOINTS

Cutting-edge semiconductors power AI progress, yet supply chains concentrate in a few regions. Chip access now shapes who can build frontier AI, and export controls have become a diplomatic tool.



Few
FAB REGIONS

Nm
NODE RACE



03

SECURITY

Cyber, Military and Proliferation

Cybersecurity and Military Uses

RISING STAKES

As AI enters defense planning, states face new escalation and attribution dilemmas.

- ▶ AI accelerates cyber offense and defense.
- ▶ Autonomous systems enter military planning.
- ▶ Escalation and attribution risks grow.
- ▶ Calls for rules on AI in warfare.

Open Source and Proliferation

Open weights spread capability widely — and are hard to reverse once released.

Open

WEIGHTS SPREAD

Access

Capability reaches many actors fast.

Benefits

UPSIDE

Transparency

Openness fuels access and innovation.

Risks

DOWNSIDE

Misuse

Uncontrolled spread is hard to reverse.

The Push for Global Standards

GOVERNANCE GAP

Efforts to align AI safety are advancing, but no single global authority yet exists.

- ▶ Safety testing and evaluation frameworks.
- ▶ Proposals from UN, OECD, and summits.
- ▶ Debate over binding versus voluntary rules.
- ▶ No single global authority yet exists.

US and China: Interests Compared

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CONFIRMED TODAY

Both invest heavily in AI and chips. The US emphasizes export controls and alliances; China emphasizes self-reliance and scale.

Facts

02

POSSIBLE FUTURES

Divergent standards could fragment rules, leaving the global governance landscape split into competing spheres.

Futures

The Risk of Uncontrolled Proliferation

WHY DIPLOMACY

Powerful AI is reaching more actors while coordination lags. Diplomacy aims to slow a destabilizing race.

CORE RISK

More

ACTORS

Weak coordination raises
accident and misuse risk.

Rivalry

ONE PATH

Cooperation

OTHER PATH

Race

RISK

Trust

GOAL

Possible futures range from cooperation to rivalry.

Make global complexity understandable with



AI is now a permanent diplomatic agenda item — facts and futures must stay clearly separated.
