A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTIONARY PATH AND STRATEGIC STRUKTURE OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY SYSTEMS IN CHINA AND AZERBAIJAN

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence has become a key technology for strategic competition and the modernization of social governance among countries, and it has promoted a new round of policy system reshaping. This paper takes China and Azerbaijan as research objects, systematically reviews the evolutionary paths and strategic structural characteristics of the two countries' artificial intelligence policy systems, and conducts a cross-national comparative analysis based on public policy documents, industry data, and development plans. Since 2017, China has built a multi-level and systematic artificial intelligence policy system through top-level design, forming a full-chain layout from core technology research and development and industrial transformation to ethical governance. Azerbaijan launched a national artificial intelligence strategy in 2025, and its policy system remains at an early stage of construction, emphasizing basic capacity building and an international cooperation orientation. By comparing the similarities and differences between the two countries in terms of policy evolution logic, strategic goal setting, implementation mechanisms, and institutional capacity, this article reveals the inherent relationship between differences in development stages and governance logic, and puts forward theoretical suggestions for policy structure optimization and medium- and long-term coordinated layout. This article does not focus on specific local experiences, nor does it explore the effects of technology application in depth, but seeks to construct a comparative perspective on the evolution of macro-level policy systems, providing a theoretical basis and practical reference for understanding the AI policy construction paths of different countries.

Keywords : *AI policy, policy evolution, strategic structure, Azerbaijan, China-Azerbaijan cooperation.*

ÇİN VƏ AZƏRBAYCANDA SÜNİ İNTELLEKT SİYASƏT SİSTEMLƏRİNİN TƏKAMÜL YOLU VƏ STRATEYİ QURULUŞUNUN MÜQAYİSƏLİ TƏHLİLİ

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Xülasə

Süni intellekt ölkələr arasında strateji rəqabət və sosial idarəetmənin modernləşdirilməsi üçün əsas texnologiyaya çevrilib və siyasət sisteminin yenidən formalaşdırlmasının yeni mərhələsini təşviq edib. Bu məqalə Çin və Azərbaycanı tədqiqat obyektləri kimi götürür, iki ölkənin süni intellekt siyasət sistemlərinin təkamül yollarını və strateji struktur xüsusiyyətlərini sistematik şəkildə sıralayır və dövlət siyasət sənədləri, sənaye məlumatları və inkişaf planları əsasında ölkələrarası müqayisəli təhlil aparır. 2017-ci ildən Çin yüksək səviyyəli dizayn vasitəsilə çoxsəviyyəli və sistematik süni intellekt siyasəti sistemi qurmuşdur, əsas texnologiya tədqiqatı və inkişafı, sənaye transformasiyasından etik idarəetməyə qədər tam zəncirli plan tərtib etmişdir. Azərbaycan 2025-ci ildə milli süni intellekt strategiyasına start verib və onun siyasət sistemi əsas potensialın artırılması və beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq yönümlülüyünü vurğulayaraq ilkin tikinti mərhələsindədir. Bu məqalə siyasətin təkamül məntiqi, strateji hədəflərin müəyyən edilməsi, həyata keçirmə mexanizmi və institusional imkanlar baxımından iki ölkə arasında oxşar və fərqli cəhətləri müqayisə edərək, inkişaf mərhələsi fərqləri ilə idarəetmə məntiqi arasındakı xas əlaqəni ortaya qoyur və siyasət strukturunun optimallaşdırılması, orta və uzunmüddətli əlaqələndirilmiş plan üçün nəzəri təkliflər irəli sürür. Bu məqalə xüsusi yerli təcrübələrə diqqət yetirmir və texnologiyanın tətbiqinin təsirlərini dərindən araşdırmır, lakin müxtəlif ölkələrin süni intellekt siyasətinin qurulması yollarını başa düşmək üçün nəzəri əsas və praktiki istinad təmin edərək, makrosiyasət sisteminin təkamülünə dair müqayisəli perspektiv qurmağa çalışır.

Açar sözlər : *AI siyasəti, siyasətin təkamülü, strateji struktur, Azərbaycan, Çin-Azərbaycan əməkdaşlığı.*

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ЭВОЛЮЦИОННОГО ПУТИ И СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОЙ СТРУКТУРЫ СИСТЕМ ПОЛИТИКИ ИСКУССТВЕННОГО ИНТЕЛЛЕКТА В КИТАЕ И АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНЕ

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Резюме

Искусственный интеллект стал ключевой технологией для стратегической конкуренции и модернизации социального управления между странами и способствовал новому раунду перестройки политической системы. В этой статье в качестве объектов исследования рассматриваются Китай и Азербайджан, систематически сортируются эволюционные пути и стратегические структурные характеристики систем политики искусственного интеллекта двух стран, а также проводится кросс-национальный сравнительный анализ на основе документов государственной политики, отраслевых данных и планов развития. С 2017 года Китай построил многоуровневую и систематическую систему политики искусственного интеллекта посредством проектирования верхнего уровня, формируя полную цепочку от основных технологических исследований и разработок, промышленной трансформации до этического управления. Азербайджан запустил национальную стратегию искусственного интеллекта в 2025 году, и его политическая система находится на начальной стадии построения, подчеркивая базовое наращивание потенциала и ориентацию на международное сотрудничество. Сравнивая сходства и различия между двумя странами с точки зрения логики эволюции политики, постановки стратегических целей, механизма реализации и институционального потенциала, в этой статье раскрывается внутренняя связь между различиями на этапе развития и логикой управления, а также выдвигаются теоретические предложения по оптимизации структуры политики и среднесрочной и долгосрочной скоординированной компоновке. В данной статье не рассматривается конкретный местный опыт и не исследуются подробно эффекты применения технологий, а делается попытка построить сравнительную перспективу эволюции системы макрополитики, предоставляя теоретическую основу и практические рекомендации для понимания путей построения политики в области ИИ в разных странах.

Ключевые слова: *политика ИИ, эволюция политики, стратегическая структура, Азербайджан, сотрудничество Китая и Азербайджана.*

INTRODUCTION

Against the backdrop of the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) technology around the world, governments around the world have introduced relevant policies to promote the research and development, industrialization and social application of AI technology. As a global leader in the development of

artificial intelligence technology, the evolution and implementation of China's policy system has provided valuable experience for many countries. Since the release of the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" in 2017, China has gradually formed an artificial intelligence policy system with technological innovation, industrial upgrading and social governance as the core, promoting the deep integration and application of AI in multiple industries [1]. At the same time, as an emerging market country, Azerbaijan has also increasingly attached importance to the application of artificial intelligence technology in the process of accelerating digital transformation. In recent years, the Azerbaijani government has issued documents such as the "Azerbaijan National Development Strategy 2030" and the "Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025-2028)", aiming to improve the country's scientific and technological innovation capabilities and improve public services and social governance by promoting the development of the AI industry.

This study aims to compare and analyze the artificial intelligence policy systems of China and Azerbaijan, and explore the similarities and differences between the two countries in terms of AI policy evolution, strategic structure and implementation effects. Through an in-depth analysis of China's AI policy and a review of the latest developments in Azerbaijan's AI policy, this article not only reveals the differences in the two countries' policy systems, but also explores how Azerbaijan can learn from China's successful experience to accelerate the advancement of its own AI industry and technology. With the widespread application of AI technology around the world, international policy cooperation and technological exchanges are becoming increasingly important. Azerbaijan should seize the opportunity in this process and use the experience of China and other countries to promote the development of its AI industry. This study will provide theoretical support and policy recommendations for Azerbaijan's future strategic formulation and implementation in the field of artificial intelligence, and also provide useful inspiration for the potential of China-Azerbaijan cooperation in AI technology.

The evolution path of China’s artificial intelligence policy system

Initial stage (2000-2010)

Between 2000 and 2010, China's AI policy was still in the exploratory stage. At this time, the government gradually increased its attention to AI and began to issue some basic policies to lay the foundation for the research and development and application of AI technology. In 2006, China issued the "National Medium- and Long-Term Science and Technology Development Plan (2006-2020)", which for the first time

proposed to strengthen the research and development and application of intelligent technology, marking the initial attention of the state to AI technology. By 2010, the "National Medium- and Long-Term Science and Technology Development Plan" further clarified AI as one of the key directions of national science and technology development.

During this period, although the AI industry was still in its infancy, China has begun to actively support the research and development of AI technology. For example, the national key R&D plan, innovative enterprise policies, and the "863 Plan" for research funding for AI-related technologies have promoted the gradual accumulation of technology. According to the "China Artificial Intelligence Industry Development Report (2020)", in 2010, China's research investment in AI technology initially increased, and the output value began to exceed 10 billion yuan.

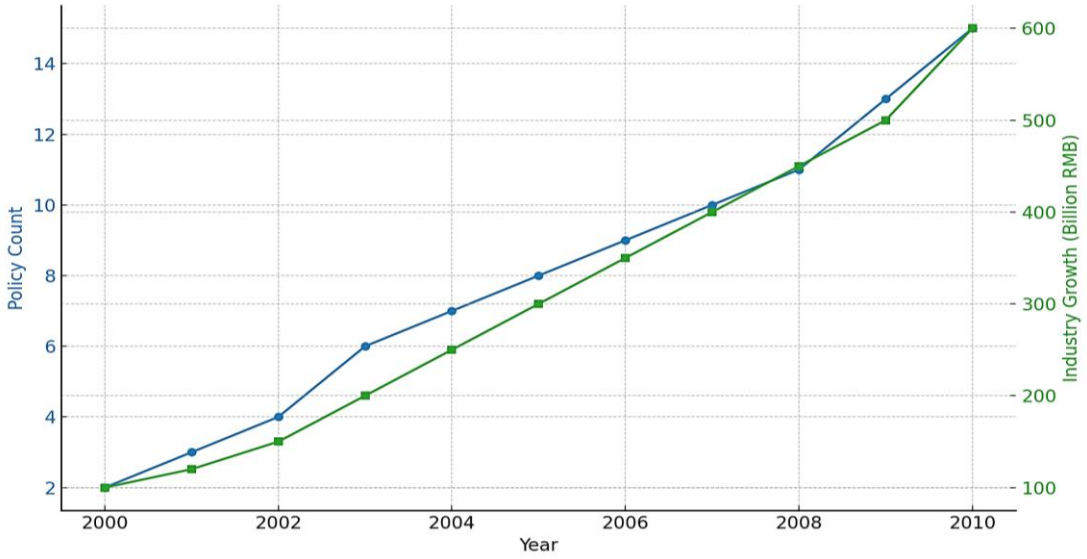

Chart 1: 2000-2010 China AI Policy and Industry Growth

This is a visualization chart based on the relationship between the number of AI policies and industrial development in China from 2000 to 2010. The chart shows the annual growth in the number of policy documents (blue line) and the gradual expansion of the AI industry market size (green line). Through this chart, we can see the positive correlation between policy support and industrial development, especially after the release of scientific and technological innovation and industrial policies, the foundation of AI technology has gradually been laid and the market has gradually expanded.

Development stage (2010-2020)

Since 2010, artificial intelligence has received unprecedented attention in China. The "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" released in 2017 has become a key policy document in this stage. The plan clearly states that China will strive to become the center of global artificial intelligence innovation by 2030 [1]. This document not only details the development direction and strategic goals of AI technology, but also provides policy support for industrialization and marketization.

According to the "China Artificial Intelligence Industry Development Report (2021)", between 2010 and 2020, the average annual growth rate of China's AI industry was close to 30%, and the GDP contribution of the AI industry increased significantly . During this period, the government promoted the industrialization of AI technology through a number of measures such as strengthening research and development, establishing AI industrial parks, and providing financial support. In particular, breakthroughs in the fields of autonomous driving, intelligent manufacturing, and artificial intelligence chips mark China's rise in the global AI technology competition.

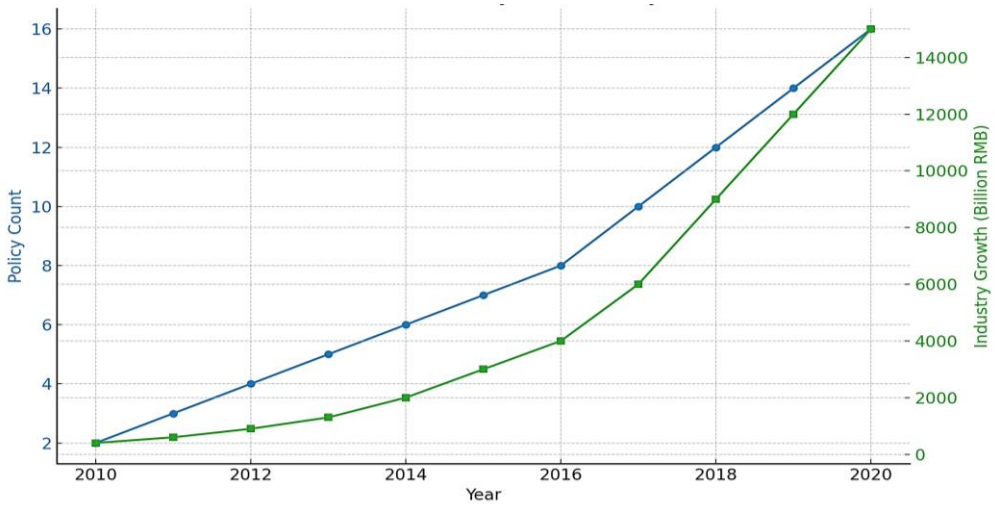

Chart 2: 2010-2020 China AI Policy and Industry Growth

This is a visualization chart based on the number of Chinese AI policies and the changes in the industry market size between 2010 and 2020. The chart shows the growth in the number of policy documents each year (blue line) and the expansion of the AI industry market size (green line). Through this chart, we can clearly see that with the gradual advancement of policies, the scale of the AI industry has grown rapidly, especially after the release of the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan", policy support has increased, promoting the accelerated development of the industry.

Current Stage and Future Outlook (2020 to Present)

Since 2020, artificial intelligence has entered the stage of full implementation in China. The 14th Five-Year Plan further clarifies AI as an important part of the new infrastructure and proposes a digital economy development strategy with AI as the core. In addition, local governments have also successively issued implementation details that are consistent with national policies, further promoting the popularization and application of AI technology at the local level [2].

According to the data of the "Annual Report on the Development of Artificial Intelligence in China" released in 2022, from 2020 to 2022, the scale of China's AI industry exceeded 1.5 trillion yuan, and the application areas covered smart manufacturing, medical health, education, finance and other industries. Especially in the construction of smart manufacturing and smart cities, the penetration of AI technology has become the key to improving industrial efficiency and social governance.

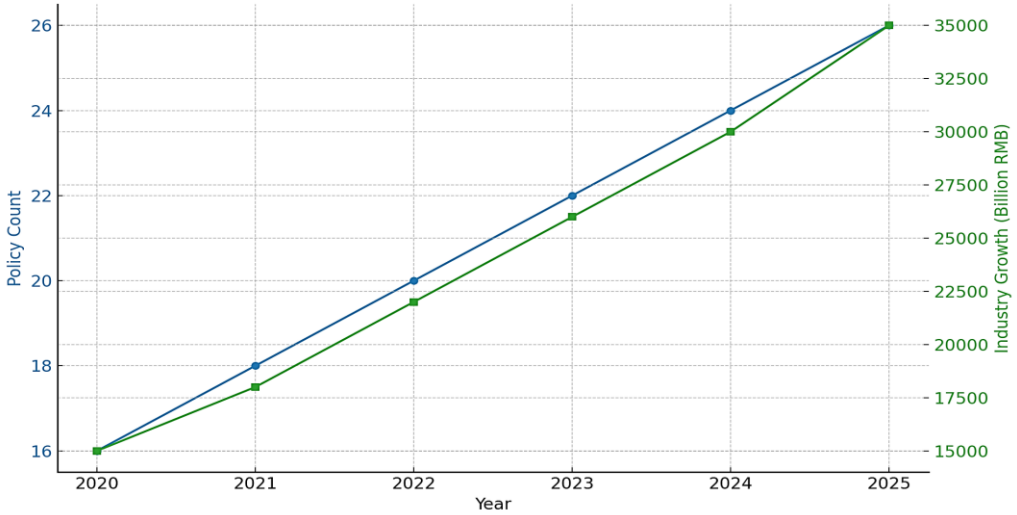

Chart 3: 2020-2025 China AI Policy and Industry Growth (Manufacturing & Healthcare)

This is a visualization of the growth trend of the number of Chinese AI policies and industrial applications (especially in the manufacturing and healthcare fields) from 2020 to 2025. The chart shows the growth of the number of policy documents each year (blue line) and the expansion of the AI industry market size (green line). Especially in the Manufacturing 2025 strategy and smart healthcare, AI technology has promoted the intelligent transformation of the industry.

Assessment of China's Artificial Intelligence Strategic Structure

Strategic goals and policy framework

China's AI policy system has clear strategic goals, and with the continuous development of policies, it has gradually formed a systematic framework covering multiple fields such as technology research and development, industrial development, and social governance. Since the release of the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" in 2017, the national AI strategic framework and goals have gradually become clear, and the core goals include: technological innovation, industrial upgrading, and social governance.

According to the data from the "China Artificial Intelligence Industry Development Report (2020)", the Chinese government's support for the artificial intelligence industry has increased year by year, and significant results have been achieved at the policy implementation level. Especially after the release of the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" and the "14th Five-Year Plan", policy goals have been further deepened, promoting the comprehensive advancement of the national AI strategy from basic research to application deployment [2].

Analysis of the effectiveness of policy implementation

The implementation effect of China's artificial intelligence policy is significantly reflected in technological innovation, industrial development and social governance. The following is a specific analysis of the implementation effect in various fields:

Technological innovation and independent research and development

Since 2017, China has invested heavily in the research and development of artificial intelligence technology. According to a report from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China's R&D investment in the field of artificial intelligence exceeded 30 billion yuan in 2019, and technological innovation has achieved fruitful results [3]. For example, China has taken a leading position in machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing and other fields. In 2018, China became the country with the largest number of artificial intelligence patent applications in the world, accounting for more than 30% of the total global patent applications.

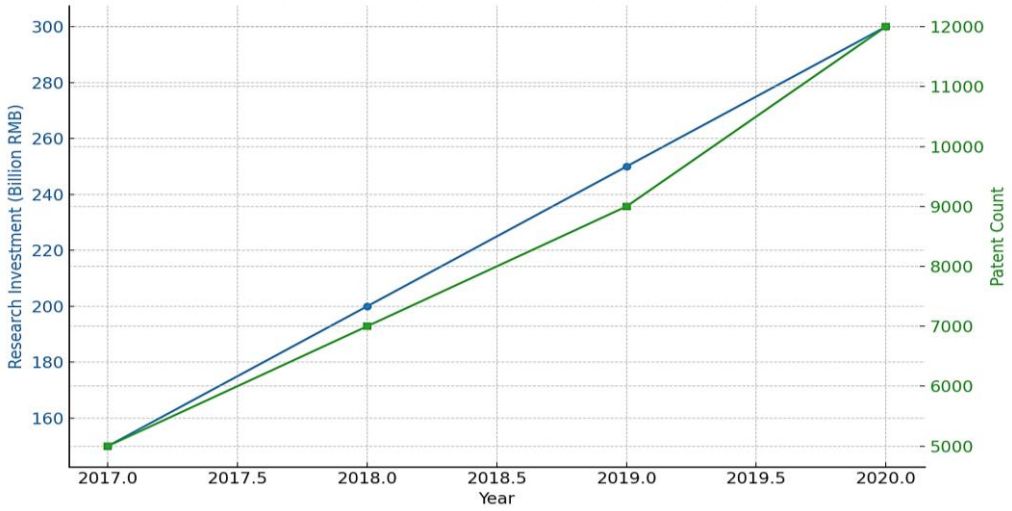

Chart 4: 2017-2020 China AI Research Investment and Patent Growth

This is a visualization chart based on the growth of China's artificial intelligence technology R&D investment and the number of patents from 2017 to 2020. The chart shows the annual investment in artificial intelligence technology R&D (blue line) and the increase in the number of patents (green line). Through this chart, we can clearly see that with the increase in R&D investment, the number of patents has also shown a rapid growth trend, reflecting China's rapid progress in technological innovation in the field of AI.

Industrial development and economic benefits

In terms of industrialization, the application of artificial intelligence has penetrated into multiple industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, financial services, etc. According to the data of the "China Artificial Intelligence Industry Development Report (2020)", by 2020, the market size of the AI industry has reached 1.5 trillion yuan, and it is expected to further expand to 4 trillion yuan by 2025 [4].

Social Governance and Public Services

In terms of social governance, the application of AI technology has helped improve the efficiency of government governance, especially in the fields of smart city construction, public safety, and environmental protection. According to relevant data from the Smart City Development Plan (2019-2025), China has achieved deep integration of AI and the Internet of Things in many cities, and has achieved remarkable results in urban management, traffic management, environmental monitoring and other fields.

Problems and Challenges

Although China's AI policy system has achieved remarkable implementation results, it still faces some problems and challenges in the development process. Mainly including:

Insufficient policy coordination

China's AI policy system has not yet fully formed a unified national policy framework. Although the central government has issued a series of strategic documents, there are certain differences in the implementation process of local governments, and the implementation strength and effect of policies in some regions have not met expectations. For example, the eastern coastal areas are relatively advanced in AI applications and technological innovation, while the central and western regions are relatively lagging behind in policy support, technology research and development, and market application.

Inconsistent technical standards

In the process of AI technology application, standardization issues are still prominent. Although China has achieved a leading position in some technical fields, the standardization of AI technology has not been fully resolved. Especially in the fields of autonomous driving and smart homes, the lack of standardization may affect the popularization of technology and the development of the industry.

Talent shortage and intellectual property protection

Although the Chinese government has increased its efforts to cultivate AI talents, there is still a shortage of high-level AI talents, especially in core technology research and development and cutting-edge fields. In addition, the rapid development of AI technology has also brought about the problem of intellectual property protection. How to avoid infringement and abuse of intellectual property rights while ensuring technological innovation is still an urgent problem to be solved.

Policy optimization suggestions

In order to further promote the innovation and industrialization of artificial intelligence technology and enhance social governance capabilities, this paper proposes the following policy optimization suggestions:

Strengthen policy coordination and local execution

Strengthen the synergy between the central and local governments in the implementation of AI policies to ensure the uniformity and coordination of AI policies across the country. Especially in the central and western regions, policy support should be increased to promote the balanced development of the AI industry.

Promote the standardization of AI technology

Further promote the standardization of AI technology, especially in key areas such as intelligent manufacturing and autonomous driving, promote the docking and unification of domestic and foreign technical standards, and provide stable technical support for industrial development.

Increase support for AI talent training and innovation

Continue to increase the training of AI talents, and cultivate more AI talents with an international perspective through the collaborative cooperation of universities, research institutions and enterprises. At the same time, it is recommended to increase funding for the research and development of core technologies to promote breakthroughs in basic research and applied technologies.

Strengthen intellectual property protection and legal protection

Improve the intellectual property protection mechanism in the field of AI, especially in the process of technological innovation, to protect the legitimate rights and interests of inventors and enterprises. At the same time, accelerate the formulation and implementation of AI-related laws and regulations to provide legal protection for the healthy development of AI technology.

Current status and strategic path of Azerbaijan's artificial intelligence policy

Before entering the mid-2020s, Azerbaijan had not yet formed a complete artificial intelligence policy system. AI technologies were mostly scattered in relevant strategic documents such as digitalization, ICT (information and communication technology) and education, lacking a coordinated deployment at the national level. However, with the enhancement of digital sovereignty, governance modernization and national strategic awareness of technology, the Azerbaijani government officially approved the "Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025-2028)" in 2025, marking a new stage of institutionalization and systematization of artificial intelligence policy. This strategy and the subsequent "Artificial Intelligence Strategy Implementation Plan" together constitute the starting point of the country's AI policy system, and its content reflects a strong policy logic of basic capability orientation and institutional construction priority [5].

Starting from the macro-goals of national development, this strategy clearly regards AI technology as an important tool to promote economic diversification, improve national governance effectiveness and participate in global scientific and technological competition. The document proposes four strategic goals: first, to consolidate the technical infrastructure, including the upgrade of data centers,

computing resources and network systems; second, to build a talent ecosystem, and promote colleges and universities and scientific research institutions to add AI-related courses and set up joint laboratories; third, to encourage the guiding application of AI in specific industries, especially in areas with social foundation effects such as agricultural modernization, financial technology and public health; fourth, to build an ethical governance and international coordination framework, emphasizing the sharing of standards and interoperable technologies with countries in the Eurasian region [6].

It is worth noting that unlike China's systemic evolution led by the state and promoted in stages, Azerbaijan's policy is more inclined to the path of "scenario-driven-capability catching up". At the current stage, its artificial intelligence strategy reflects the structural characteristics of the trinity of "policy planning-capacity building-international cooperation", showing a strong learning-oriented national policy style. Although the policy tools are limited, the direction is clear and the rhythm is tight, which provides a good starting point for the construction of the medium- and long-term AI governance system.

From the market perspective, according to public data, the valuation of Azerbaijan's artificial intelligence-related market in 2023 is about US$50 million, and it is expected to grow to US$150 million by 2027, with an average annual growth rate of about 22-25% [7]. AI is mainly used in traffic monitoring, smart agriculture, financial risk control and health data management. Relevant higher education institutions such as ADA University and Baku Engineering University have opened artificial intelligence courses, and gradually promoted talent training in line with national strategies. According to the "AI Readiness Index" released by the ResearchGate platform, Azerbaijan's total score in 2023 is 48.15, with uneven performance in the four dimensions of government execution ability, infrastructure, technical level and data ability, especially in terms of technology maturity and industrial mobilization [8].

In terms of legal and institutional construction, as of early 2025, Azerbaijan has not yet formulated special AI regulations, but there are relevant general laws (such as data protection and cybersecurity laws) that can be applied to AI scenarios. The country plans to promote the construction of AI ethical standards during the strategic implementation period, and introduce international experience by signing memorandums of cooperation on technology and governance with countries such as Israel and South Korea.

In general, Azerbaijan's AI policy system is still in the stage of "initial strategic

framework - establishment of implementation mechanism", with the following prominent features: highly centralized top-level planning, emphasis on international cooperation and talent introduction, and emphasis on pilot-oriented scenario-based applications of AI. Although this strategic path is different from China's development model, it reflects the country's high attention to the governance of emerging technologies and its willingness to act. In the future, with the enhancement of infrastructure and technological accumulation, Azerbaijan is expected to move towards a more systematic and self-organizing policy stage.

Table 1: Azerbaijan AI Industry Development Analysis

Dimension	2023	2027 Forecast
Market Size	$50 million	$150 million
Key Areas	Transportation, healthcare, finance	Same, with deeper penetration
Government Strategy	"AI Strategy (2025-2028)" approved	Strategy in progress
Talent Development	AI courses at ADA, Baku Engineering	More AI training programs
Legal Framework	No dedicated laws yet	Laws to be established
International Cooperation	Agreements with Israel	Expanded international partnerships

Comparative Analysis and Policy Recommendations of China-Azerbaijan Artificial Intelligence Policy Systems

Through the systematic review and structural evaluation of China and Azerbaijan's artificial intelligence policy systems, it can be seen that the two countries have obvious similarities and differences in AI governance concepts, strategic deployment, institutional execution and policy tool configuration. This difference is not only due to differences in national systems, but also deeply reflects the structural differences between the two countries in development stages, resource endowments and technological capabilities. This chapter attempts to compare the AI policy systems of China and Azerbaijan from three dimensions: strategic design logic, institutional governance model and policy implementation path, and on this basis, proposes institutional optimization suggestions applicable to Azerbaijan and cooperation directions for China-Azerbaijan coordinated development.

From the perspective of strategic design, China's AI policy system presents the characteristics of "top-level design-stage advancement-policy differentiation", emphasizing the compatibility of strategic foresight and path dependence. Since the

release of the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" in 2017, China has continuously built a hierarchical and classified policy system through five-year plans, industry-oriented policies and local guidance mechanisms, achieving vertical connection and horizontal coordination between technology research and development, industrialization and governance mechanisms. Azerbaijan will enter the construction period of AI policy around 2025. The strategic logic is mainly based on "capacity building first, scenario introduction leading", and is still in the construction stage dominated by macro-strategy and gradually matched with specific policy tools.

In terms of institutional implementation mechanism, China's AI policy system relies on a strong central-local interaction system, and achieves hierarchical implementation and dynamic correction of policy goals through scientific research funds, industrial funds, data openness and other means [4]. However, Azerbaijan's current implementation mechanism is still in the centralized planning period, led by the Presidential Office and the National Economic Reform and Communication Analysis Center, focusing on planning release and preliminary pilots, and the flexible adjustment and dynamic feedback mechanism of the system are still being improved. This "planning-led-implementation-centralized" model helps to improve execution efficiency in the context of limited resources, but there are also problems of insufficient policy response flexibility and weak local adaptation capabilities [6].

From the perspective of resource mobilization and policy tool configuration, China's AI development is deeply driven by large-scale financial support and the joint innovation mechanism of universities and enterprises. Data shows that from 2017 to 2020, China's AI-related investment doubled, and the number of patents jumped from 5,000 to 12,000 during the same period. However, Azerbaijan's resource allocation is still concentrated on infrastructure investment and education system reform, and technology industrialization, application pilots and ethical governance still rely on international technology input and cooperation. This structural difference determines the focus of the two countries in the use of policy tools: China focuses on promoting system integration and collaborative governance, while Azerbaijan needs more "few but fine" key breakthroughs and institutional construction.

Based on the above comparison, this article puts forward the following policy optimization suggestions for Azerbaijan:

- First, the current AI strategy should be further decomposed into phased tasks, such as "infrastructure improvement period-talent training and accumulation period-industry integration pilot period" to clarify the main direction and

supporting policies at different stages. We can learn from China's policy logic of "time-space-industry" three-dimensional linkage, formulate a roadmap with time nodes and target indicators, and enhance the operability and execution feedback mechanism of strategic implementation.

- Secondly, it is recommended to build a cross-departmental AI coordination mechanism with clear division of labor. At present, the implementation of Azerbaijan's AI policy is mainly concentrated at the central government level, lacking departmental coordination and local feedback mechanisms. We can refer to China's "Ministry of Science and Technology-Ministry of Industry and Information Technology-Local Government" coordination framework to establish a national AI coordination committee to coordinate functional sectors such as technology research and development, data policy, education system and ethical review.
- Secondly, promote scenario-based pilot projects of AI in areas with high social returns. For example, in the fields of smart agriculture, telemedicine, public transportation, etc., there is a real demand basis in Azerbaijan and it does not rely on high-tech barriers. Through cooperation with China on smart projects under the "Belt and Road" initiative, we will carry out China-Azerbaijan joint application demonstration projects to achieve the simultaneous advancement of technology introduction and governance capacity cultivation in a "soft output" manner.
- Finally, we should start to establish a local AI legal and ethical framework as soon as possible to ensure data sovereignty, privacy protection and social justice in the process of technology expansion. We can introduce China's legislative experience in the "Personal Information Protection Law" and "Artificial Intelligence Governance Principles", and at the same time combine the country's legal system and religious culture to create a local applicable AI governance foundation.

In general, as an "emerging country" in the construction of AI policy system, Azerbaijan is in a critical period of transition from "cognitive stage" to "institutional stage". China's experience is of great reference value to it, but what is more critical is to build a local path that is "absorbable, matchable and executable". Through a structural comparison of the macro policy system, this study reveals the institutional commonalities and differences between China and Azerbaijan in the process of AI policy evolution, and provides a feasible framework and path suggestions for how Azerbaijan can position its AI development strategy in digital governance, scientific

and technological innovation and foreign cooperation in the future.

CONCLUSION

Against the global background of the continuous development of artificial intelligence technology, building a systematic national policy system has become the key to promoting the implementation of AI strategy [9]. Focusing on the two core dimensions of "policy evolution path" and "strategic structure", this paper systematically compares the construction logic and institutional characteristics of China and Azerbaijan's artificial intelligence policy systems, revealing the systematic differences between the two countries in policy maturity, resource allocation and governance structure.

The study found that China's AI policy system was formed earlier, with the characteristics of high institutionalization and phased evolution, relying on central-local linkage to achieve full-chain management from technology research and development to industrial governance. Since Azerbaijan established its national AI strategy in 2025, it has started a policy construction phase oriented towards capacity building, focusing on infrastructure, talent training and international cooperation, reflecting the path characteristics of scenario guidance and strategy first.

The differences between China and Azerbaijan's policy systems not only reflect different institutional environments, but also reflect the objective divisions in governance tools and development stages. China focuses on top-level design and coordinated implementation, while Azerbaijan actively explores in the practice of "strategy setting-capability matching", showing strong policy absorption and transformation capabilities. The gap between the two also provides Azerbaijan with experience to learn from in building a more feasible local AI policy system.

This article constructs a "vertical evolution + horizontal structure" analysis framework, which enriches the research paradigm of cross-national AI policy comparison in theory; in practice, it provides policy recommendations for the optimization of Azerbaijan's AI governance system. Future research can further focus on local governance differences, policy industry influence mechanisms, and more horizontal comparisons among emerging countries to explore the diversified evolution paths of the global AI policy system.

Artificial intelligence not only represents technological competitiveness, but also reflects the institutional capabilities of a country. The complementarity and mutual learning between China and Azerbaijan in the policy system will not only help Azerbaijan achieve institutional transition, but also provide a useful reference for the

diversified development of global AI governance.

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