Throughout the 2024-25 academic year I assisted Professor Trubowitz on a project that asks how advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping great-power competition and U.S. grand strategy. The inquiry is motivated by a growing body of work—ranging from Sam Meacham's "race to extinction" warning to RAND's Strategic Competition in the Age of AI—arguing that algorithms, chips, and data centres are becoming as strategically decisive as aircraft carriers or trade blocs. Our study seeks to clarify what AI means for power politics, which risks emerge as the United States, China, and the European Union weaponise digital technologies, and which policy levers might keep the competition from tipping into instability.

My primary task this year was to build a reliable literature base on AI and great-power rivalry. Working from library databases, think-tank portals, and major journals, I located 42 core texts published between 2018 and early 2025. These include peer-reviewed articles (e.g., Payne 2018; King 2024), policy briefs (e.g., Bateman 2022; Soufan Center 2024), and book-length reports (e.g., Horowitz et al. 2018; Black et al. 2024). For each source I produced a concise synopsis that captures:

- the author's central argument;
- key evidence or case studies used;
- stated implications for U.S. or allied policy; and
- direct quotations that crystallise the text's contribution.

Taken together, these summaries form a 20-page annotated bibliography. They also feed directly into a draft article comparing U.S., Chinese, and EU approaches to AI governance, for which my short-form write-ups supply both citations and thematic sign-posts.

Because my assignment centred on interpretive reading and synthesis—not data collection or fieldwork—the methods were deliberately straightforward:

- Targeted Search & Selection. I searched for English-language material containing the keywords "artificial intelligence" plus "grand strategy," "great power competition," or "national security," then filtered for texts that offered clear strategic analysis rather than technical discussion alone.
- Close Reading & Structured Summaries. Each text was read in full. I recorded author, date, venue, argument, evidence, and policy takeaways in a uniform template, ensuring comparability across sources.

The result is a qualitative, hand-curated dataset whose transparency makes it easy for other researchers to verify or extend.

Although the authors approach AI from different angles, three themes recur across the 42 summaries:

- Hardware & Industrial Policy Matter Most. Studies on export controls (Bateman 2022; Lin & Heim 2025; Triolo 2024) agree that cutting-edge chips underpin AI power. Controlling the semiconductor supply chain has therefore become a core instrument of statecraft.

- Stability Mechanisms Lag Behind Capability Growth. Works by Horowitz & Scharre (2021), Sacks (2023), and Puscas (2023) warn that autonomous systems accelerate decision cycles and heighten escalation risks, yet confidence-building measures remain embryonic.

- Domestic Ecosystems Decide Winners. Waxman (2023), Arroyo (2024), and Brandt et al. (2022) highlight the importance of talent pipelines, energy resilience, and R&D funding. Simply owning algorithms is insufficient; states must nurture broad innovation bases.

These convergent insights suggest that U.S. grand strategy is evolving toward a mixed approach: hard controls on hardware, soft norms for risk management, and whole-of-society investment in innovation. My summaries supply the textual evidence supporting this claim and help trace how emphasis on particular levers—chips in 2022, energy in 2024—shifts over time.

The assistantship sharpened my analytical reading, academic writing, and project-coordination skills. Producing concise yet faithful summaries taught me to separate signal from noise.