**Event Report Ted Talks**

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In this event report, I reflect on two powerful TED Talks that explore the intersection of technology, national security, and global power. The first talk, *“The AI Arsenal That Could Stop World War III”* by Palmer Luckey, discusses how artificial intelligence can revolutionize modern defense systems to protect democratic nations from rising authoritarian threats. The second talk, *“The Next Global Superpower Isn’t Who You Think”* by Ian Bremmer, challenges traditional ideas of global dominance by introducing a new digital power structure led not by governments, but by powerful technology companies. These talks provide critical insights into the evolving role of AI, cybersecurity, and digital governance. These issues are deeply relevant to the field of information studies and directly aligned with my career goals as a cybersecurity specialist.

Palmer Luckey, the founder of Anduril Industries, presents a compelling argument for the use of AI-powered autonomous defense systems. He stresses that outdated military tools like tanks and aircraft carriers are too slow and expensive to meet the speed and scale of today’s threats. In contrast, AI defense platforms can be developed quickly, deployed affordably, and updated continuously, making them far more adaptable to modern warfare. Luckey emphasizes that these technologies are not meant to wage war, but rather to prevent it by deterring adversaries, especially authoritarian regimes such as the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which he views as a serious threat to global stability. As someone of Taiwanese descent, this struck a deep chord with me. Taiwan faces continuous pressure and aggression from the CCP, and Luckey’s message reinforced the importance of maintaining a technological edge to protect democratic societies.

What I found most insightful was Luckey’s call for ethical innovation. He acknowledges that autonomous defense systems raise important questions about morality and accountability but insists that democratic nations must be the ones to set the standards, rather than allowing authoritarian regimes to dominate this unchecked space. This perspective resonates strongly with the field of information studies, where ethical considerations are central to how we design and manage technology. As a cybersecurity professional in training, I want to contribute to building secure and ethical systems that defend against digital threats without compromising democratic values.

Ian Bremmer’s TED Talk builds on this conversation by offering a broader geopolitical lens. Rather than focusing on military defense, Bremmer examines how global power is shifting from traditional nation-states to digital platforms. He introduces the idea of a "G-Zero world," where no single country leads, and power is instead divided across three different orders: a unipolar security order led by the U.S., a multipolar economic order involving many global powers, and a digital order dominated by tech companies and AI systems. Bremmer argues that this new digital superpower shaped by platforms like Google, Amazon, and Tencent is now the most influential force in the world.

This concept was both eye-opening and validating. As someone deeply interested in cybersecurity and geopolitics, I’ve always understood that power today exists not just on battlefields but also across networks, algorithms, and data systems. Bremmer’s talk confirms that the digital world has become a primary arena for influence, governance, and even conflict. He warns that without strong global institutions to regulate AI and digital governance, we risk allowing tech companies and authoritarian states to control the flow of information and shape public values without accountability. His suggestion for a “World Data Organization” struck me as a logical and necessary evolution like the United Nations but for data ethics, privacy, and AI governance.

These two talks are deeply connected and highly relevant to the field of information studies. They reveal how AI and digital platforms are redefining power, war, and governance in the 21st century. From Luckey’s focus on building ethical AI defense systems to Bremmer’s vision of a world dominated by data and algorithms, both talks highlight the urgent need for cybersecurity professionals, policy experts, and technologists to work together to defend democratic values. As a Taiwanese descendant, I felt a deep personal connection to the geopolitical issues raised in the talk. Taiwan faces a constant threat from the CCP, and discussions around advanced defense technologies, especially those designed to protect democratic nations hit close to home. The urgency and seriousness of Luckey’s message made me reflect more deeply on my mission. I want to be part of the generation that secures the digital frontlines, defends against cyber warfare, and ensures that freedom of speech and democracy are preserved online.

In conclusion, the TED Talks by Palmer Luckey and Ian Bremmer provided a thought-provoking and deeply relevant analysis of today’s most pressing global challenges. Their insights into AI, digital power, and global security reflect the evolving role of information technology in shaping world affairs. For me, these talks offered both a sense of urgency and a renewed commitment to my professional goals. I aspire to be part of the next generation of cybersecurity experts who help protect our digital world from foreign threats and ensure that technological progress supports freedom, not oppression.

**References:**

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