

26 - 28 June 2026

Edinburgh, Scotland , United Kingdom

Artificial Intelligence Goes to War: The Case of Trump Vs. Anthropic

Dr. Wayne A. Hunt

Mount Allison University, Canada

Abstract

The landscape of modern warfare has shifted. US-sponsored conflicts in Venezuela and Iran represent classic instances of the projection of Artificial Intelligence for military purposes. These conflicts were prosecuted in the name of state security as "wars of choice," yet they depended heavily upon the algorithmic calculations authorized by the Trump administration. Notably, these operations bypassed traditional democratic safeguards; Congress was not involved in a meaningful way, nor were the national parliaments of core allies like the United Kingdom and Canada.

This paper presents a case study of a secondary, internal battle: the political struggle between the Pentagon and the tech firm Anthropic. President Trump characterized the company as being populated by "left-wing nut jobs" and leftovers from the previous Biden administration. This schism highlighted a fundamental disagreement in the tech world between those championing a proprietary approach to emerging technology and those favoring an open-source model. Geopolitics factored heavily into this debate, as Chinese firms like DeepSeek, Moonshot, and Alibaba aggressively expanded into new markets using open-source business models to challenge American dominance.

The Anthropic case demonstrated a rare moment of corporate resistance, as the company refused to allow the state to breach "red lines" regarding the human control of autonomous weaponry and the mass surveillance of domestic citizenry. These issues raised profound legal questions that continue to move through the court system. Interestingly, Anthropic's rival, OpenAI, along with other major American tech firms, ultimately supported Anthropic's stance, signaling a rare moment of industry-wide alignment against executive overreach.

Larger systemic questions regarding the nature of regulation and public-private governance are at issue here. Are tech leaders assuming a more partisan role in the United States? The balance of power within governments has shifted toward the executive branch, driven by a perceived global instability. Max Weber famously argued that a growth in the executive branch would be accompanied by a growth in the

bureaucratic state and impersonal rules. However, the current partisan context suggests a more volatile trajectory. Are proprietary enthusiasts also tech-optimists who believe technology alone defines the future? This group often discounts safety concerns, potentially becoming unwitting—or even unconscious—agents of a new form of digital imperialism.

The focus of this analysis is on a subject neglected in scholarly literature: how tech battles in Silicon Valley have managed to open new fault lines in domestic politics. We must ask if working-class support for foreign wars has been eroded, particularly among a younger generation of voters positioned at the "jagged edge" of these tech initiatives. This generation exists at the primary human-machine interface, where new communication technologies—specifically podcasting and long-form livestreaming—have transformed political discourse. By bypassing traditional media, these platforms have fed into a skepticism of the state's "wars of choice," creating a new intersection between high-tech warfare and populist resistance.

Keywords: Political Leadership, Open-Source Business Models, Law and Politics, Artificial Intelligence, Class Analysis