

Linking Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: The Future of Political Freedoms in the Age of Technology

Fatemeh Sadeghinejad, Hamidreza Mahmoudishenas
Bu-Ali Sina University

Abstract:

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence has profoundly reshaped political freedoms and fundamental human rights, influencing principles such as freedom of expression, equality, personal security, and political participation as outlined in international human rights documents. This article examines the intersection of AI and political freedoms, assessing both its advantages and challenges within contemporary governance structures through historical and applied analysis. By employing a two-pronged approach—document analysis and historical review—the study identifies core human rights principles affected by AI while investigating its integration into political systems and democratic participation. A comparative analysis of case studies highlights how AI enhances access to political information, fosters civic engagement, and influences voter behavior, yet also presents risks such as automated decision-making bias, inequalities in representation, AI-driven surveillance, and ethical concerns in governance. Despite its potential to empower individuals, AI introduces challenges related to transparency, accountability, and manipulation within democratic processes. Thus, policymakers and technologists must collaborate to align AI development with human rights principles, fostering ethical governance while refining regulatory mechanisms to safeguard political freedoms. This study underscores the need for continued research on AI's political implications, ensuring that technological innovation advances democratic integrity without compromising fundamental human rights.

Key words: Human Rights, Artificial Intelligence, Political Freedoms, Equality, Technology.

INTRODUCTION:

Technological advancements have always had a wide-ranging impact on the political, social, and economic structures of societies. In the 21st century, artificial intelligence, as one of the most advanced and sophisticated technologies, has transformed not only industries and economies but also governance and political relations. With its ability to process vast amounts of data and make autonomous decisions, this technology is replacing or enhancing many human institutions.

Meanwhile, human rights, as a set of universal principles for safeguarding human dignity, remain one of the most challenging concepts in global politics. Concepts such as freedom of expression, equality, personal security, and the right to participate in government are among the pillars of this legal framework.

The intersection of these two fields—artificial intelligence and human rights—has become a central focus of interdisciplinary studies in the past decade. While AI holds the potential to bolster democracy and increase productivity, risks such as algorithmic bias, digital censorship, mass surveillance, and the misuse of sensitive personal data could undermine political freedoms.

A variety of articles have discussed similar topics, and we will explore the issues they address.

The study of Dr. Kan[1] examines the legal frameworks, ethical standards, and global cooperation essential for governing AI within international law. It formulates strategic approaches and policy recommendations to ensure AI technologies align with democratic values and human rights protections. The proposed policies seek to enhance the societal benefits of technological advancements while mitigating potential risks. Ultimately, the research presents a holistic model for the ethical and legal oversight of AI, with practical suggestions for implementation at both national and global levels. The final section of Nemitz's paper[2] advocates for fostering a new approach to AI development, emphasizing the integration of democratic values, the rule of law, and human rights from the outset. It proposes a three-tier technological impact assessment as a practical framework for ensuring that emerging technologies like AI align with these foundational principles. The paper from the Alan Turing Institute[3] explores how data science and artificial intelligence can shape public policy and enhance the delivery of public services. It

argues that governments can only benefit from these technologies if they prioritize ethical considerations and safety measures. All of the articles discussed aim to explore the positive and negative effects of artificial intelligence on the realization of democracy and human rights, as well as the legal frameworks necessary to achieve these goals. However, the present article focuses on the analysis of case studies examining AI's impact on political processes, emphasizing both its advantages and potential dangers. The study identifies several key patterns: AI facilitates access to political information, fostering greater civic participation and public debate; automated decision-making introduces risks of bias and inequality, which may undermine fair political representation; and AI-powered surveillance raises significant concerns regarding privacy and personal security, posing challenges to human rights protections. This research conducts a comparative analysis of case studies examining AI's impact on political processes, emphasizing its advantages and potential dangers. The study identifies several key patterns: AI facilitates access to political information, fostering greater civic participation and public debate; automated decision-making introduces risks of bias and inequality, which may undermine fair political representation; and AI-powered surveillance raises significant concerns regarding privacy and personal security, posing challenges to human rights protections.

Theoretical foundations of human rights and political freedoms

Regarding the examination of the interaction between modern technologies and human rights in political participation, one of the first steps is to identify the foundations of human rights as stated in the official human rights document, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At the first session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1947, Peng Chan-cheng, the representative of China, and Charles Malik, the representative of Lebanon, attempted to initiate a discussion on the principles of human rights.[4] Cheng was a Confucian philosopher who studied with John Dewey; Malik was a philosopher who studied with Alfred North Whitehead and Martin Heidegger. In the continuation of this discussion, representatives from Yugoslavia, France, and England also participated. After extensive discussion, Malik made a statement that could guide the identification and explanation of the examples of human rights listed in this document.

History and developments of artificial intelligence

The history of artificial intelligence and data science dates back to the 1940s and 1950s, when the foundations of these two important scientific fields were first established. Over the years, both fields have undergone significant developments, ranging from technological advances to the emergence of new methodologies. Over the years, both fields have undergone significant developments, ranging from technological advancements to the emergence of scientific methods and broader applications. These changes have contributed to a deeper and more sophisticated understanding of each field. Artificial intelligence, in particular, is a vast and evolving area. Recent advancements in algorithms, machine learning, and data analytics have changed how people interact with technology.[5] The origins of artificial intelligence can be traced back to 1938, when Alan Turing developed a machine known as the "Turing Bombe" for decoding messages during World War II. This invention not only significantly impacted the history of computing but also laid the foundation for the concept of "machine intelligence." A few years later, Turing introduced the "Turing Test" to further explore the capabilities of machines. Today, AI applications range from industry and medicine to transportation, education, and even art. This breadth demonstrates its profound impact on human life.[6] At the Dartmouth Conference in 1956, the term "artificial intelligence" was first introduced by John McCarthy and his colleagues, marking the official beginning of this field of science.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology designed to imitate human intelligence, allowing machines to perform tasks such as decision-making, problem-solving, and understanding language. It operates by collecting and processing large amounts of data, which AI systems use to learn, recognize patterns, and enhance their performance. Artificial intelligence is pervasive in our daily lives, from voice recognition in smart assistants to image recognition in social networks and natural language processing in chatbots. In addition, AI systems are constantly learning and optimizing themselves to perform better in the face of rapid environmental changes. In short, AI, relying on data, learning, and automated decision-making, has become a key tool in today's technologies that have transformed our lives in various aspects. [7]

Despite the advances, GPT models face several ethical challenges:

- Bias: The model may reproduce biases present in the training data.
- Misinformation: The possibility of producing incorrect or misleading content.
- Privacy: The risk of revealing personal or sensitive information.
- Overreliance: Excessive use of artificial intelligence may reduce human creativity and critical thinking.

- Freedom of expression

Freedom and freedom of expression are the most basic principles addressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, endowed with reason and conscience, and entitled to treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood." Also, in Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, freedom of expression is addressed as follows: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. "This right includes freedom, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest their religion or belief through teaching, practice, observance, and worship."

"Everyone is free to hold and express any opinion. This right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference, and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any means they choose, regardless of geographical boundaries."

To understand the ideology of freedom and freedom of expression, we must examine the beliefs of various thinkers. John Stuart Mill asserts that freedom of expression is the right of individuals to share their thoughts and opinions without fear of repression from the government or other institutions. According to Mill, individual opinions should be expressed, even if they are incorrect or contrary to public opinion. He believes that, based on the principles of democracy and the free exchange of ideas, the best ideas will ultimately prevail. John Stuart Mill regarded freedom of speech as essential for intellectual and social development.[8] Similarly, John Locke, a 17th-century English philosopher, argued in his book "Two Treatises of Government" that individuals should be free to express their opinions and engage in discussions and debates about social and political issues.[9] Spinoza is another philosopher who has explored the concepts of freedom and freedom of expression. He argues that freedom of expression is not only an individual right but also crucial for the advancement of science. According to Spinoza, the government should not restrict individuals from exercising their freedom of expression.[10] Arendt argues that freedom of expression not only represents an individual right but is also crucial for establishing a democratic and participatory society, upholding human dignity, and combating oppression.[11] Rousseau believes that freedom of opinion can lead to the creation of the General Will and also lead to the emergence of true democracy and social participation.[12] It is important to remember that freedom of expression encompasses not only the right to share commonly held opinions but also the right to voice unpopular or dissenting views. This practice is essential for fostering the development of new ideas and encouraging social critique.[13]

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has highlighted that safeguarding freedom of expression necessitates the availability of communication tools that are accessible to all individuals without discrimination and that these tools should be free from restrictions. Beyond the negative obligations of states, the Court also underscored their positive duties, emphasizing the need to prevent monopolies in communication channels, promote diversity, and protect the independence of journalists.[14]

In a democratic system, freedom of expression fundamentally relies on citizens being able to openly voice their opinions about government officials, prevailing ideologies, and socio-economic conditions— even when these perspectives are controversial or unsettling. However, AI-driven surveillance, operating in both digital and physical spaces, enables authorities to swiftly monitor and analyze individuals.[15] This dynamic ultimately reverses the intended function of free expression as a tool for public oversight. Instead of fostering civic dialogue that shapes governance, cyberspace increasingly serves as a mechanism for political authorities to identify and silence opposition. For example, in China, AI technologies are employed to detect posts critical of the government and forecast potential protests. The pervasive nature of surveillance instills a sense of fear among citizens, discouraging them from exercising their right to free speech.[1]

AI algorithms, particularly those employed by social media platforms and news organizations, have the potential to suppress specific viewpoints or distort information. Governments and corporations may leverage AI for widespread surveillance and content moderation, restricting access to varied perspectives and hindering the free exchange of ideas. This creates concerns about stifling opposing voices and limiting the breadth of public dialogue.[16]

AI-driven surveillance technologies are capable of monitoring individuals' online activities, which can infringe on personal privacy and discourage open expression. The fear of being watched by government or corporate entities may cause individuals to withhold their true opinions, leading to self-censorship. Such behavior can undermine democratic participation and pose serious threats to fundamental human rights.[17]

- Equality

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". Equality is a fundamental principle for individual and social development and one of the most important pillars of an ideal society.[18] Humans should exist in a state of nature, which is founded on the principles of equality and the general will. Equality is a fundamental principle in a democratic and just society.[12] Mill considers equality essential for access to economic, social, and cultural opportunities, emphasizing the need to eliminate deprivation based on gender, race, religion, and other factors.[8] The crucial point is that equality encompasses both opportunity and empowerment. Equal access to education, healthcare, and other resources is vital for empowering individuals.[18] Additionally, it is important to recognize that equality is one of the key conditions that enable all individuals to enjoy better life opportunities.[19]

AI has the potential to transform the labor market in ways that can either support or hinder equality. On one side, AI can automate repetitive and low-skill jobs, leading to job displacement, especially for workers in marginalized communities. This could have a disproportionate impact on low-income workers, women, and racial minorities who often fill these roles. The automation of these positions may exacerbate income inequality, as individuals with advanced skills in AI and technology stand to gain from new opportunities, while others face job loss and limited options for retraining.[20]

On the other side, AI can also generate entirely new industries and job roles that were once unimaginable. For example, the growth of AI and machine learning has led to a surge in demand for positions in data science, software development, and cybersecurity. However, these roles require specialized skills that are not universally accessible, which could deepen the digital divide between those with the resources and education to take advantage of these opportunities and those who do not.[21]

AI systems, particularly those used in hiring, lending, law enforcement, and healthcare, have been found to reinforce or even amplify existing biases. Machine learning algorithms are typically trained on historical data that reflect societal inequalities, meaning AI can unintentionally absorb and replicate these biases, resulting in discriminatory outcomes.

For example, facial recognition systems have been shown to have higher error rates for women and people of color, raising concerns about surveillance practices that disproportionately affect these groups. Likewise, AI-driven recruitment tools have been criticized for favoring male candidates or individuals from specific socioeconomic backgrounds, exacerbating gender and racial imbalances in the workplace.[22]

The biases inherent in AI systems present significant challenges to fairness and equality, as these technologies have the potential to perpetuate social injustices if not properly monitored and regulated.[23]

Access to AI technologies and the internet is not equally available across different socioeconomic groups, which can worsen existing inequalities. People in low-income communities or developing nations may lack the resources, education, and tools needed to engage in the AI-driven economy. This digital divide creates a significant barrier to equal participation in a world that is becoming increasingly reliant on AI.[24]

Furthermore, unequal access to AI technologies can impede progress toward social mobility and fairness. For instance, in healthcare, AI tools can provide advanced diagnostics and treatment suggestions, but these technologies are often more accessible to wealthier individuals or those in developed countries, leaving marginalized groups with limited opportunities to benefit from such advancements.[25]

- Personal security

Another principle addressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is personal security. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in Article 3 of this Declaration: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Personal security in the modern world can only be ensured through public and political participation in building a free and equal society.[11] Personal security means that people are able to live in a free and equal environment and benefit from the resources and facilities to achieve their goals.[19]

1. Invasion of Privacy via Surveillance

AI technologies, such as facial recognition and other monitoring tools, pose significant risks to personal privacy. These systems can continuously track individuals in public and online spaces, often without consent. This can infringe on personal freedoms, as individuals may feel constantly observed, which diminishes their sense of security.

- **Example:** In some regions, such as China, facial recognition is widely used for public surveillance, which raises concerns about personal privacy being undermined. The *European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights* has pointed out that such systems can infringe on individuals' right to privacy and diminish their autonomy by creating a constant surveillance environment.[26]

2. Discriminatory Bias in AI Systems

AI systems, particularly those used in areas like law enforcement and criminal justice, are often influenced by biases present in their training data. These biases can lead to unjust outcomes, such as the disproportionate targeting of specific groups based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status. This, in turn, can threaten the security of these marginalized individuals.

- **Example:** Investigations have shown that predictive policing algorithms used in the U.S. criminal justice system are biased, often unfairly marking Black individuals as high-risk for reoffending, even when the data doesn't support such conclusions. This kind of bias can result in unfair treatment and harm, exacerbating inequality.[27]

3. Reduced Autonomy and Control Over Decisions

AI systems increasingly make decisions on behalf of individuals, especially in sectors like healthcare and finance. While intended to optimize outcomes, this can reduce personal control, as people may not fully understand or agree with the decisions AI systems make on their behalf.

- **Example:** AI tools in healthcare that recommend treatment plans might not always consider an individual's preferences or provide adequate transparency about how decisions are made, potentially diminishing personal agency. Regulations, such as the *Artificial Intelligence Act* from the European Commission, aim to ensure these systems remain accountable.[28]

4. Increased Cybersecurity Risks

Although AI can enhance cybersecurity, it can also be exploited by malicious individuals to develop more advanced cyberattacks. Techniques like phishing, hacking, and creating deepfake videos are increasingly powered by AI, leading to a rise in identity theft, fraud, and other online crimes, all of which can compromise personal security.

- **Example:** AI-driven deepfakes, which can manipulate video and audio to impersonate people, have raised concerns. These technologies have been used to deceive others, spread misinformation, or engage in harassment, significantly undermining personal security.[29]

5. Undermining Trust and Psychological Security

The growing reliance on AI in decision-making processes can contribute to a sense of insecurity and erode public trust. Many people may feel uneasy about the lack of transparency in AI systems, as they don't fully understand how these decisions are made, which can negatively affect their psychological well-being.

- **Example:** Research has shown that when people do not fully comprehend how AI systems operate—especially in areas like hiring or law enforcement—they may feel anxious and distrustful, which can harm their sense of personal security.[30]

- Cultural Life

Cultural life is one of the principles that has been less addressed until now. Cultural life refers to access to cultural, educational, and artistic opportunities.[31] Cultural life helps individuals preserve their cultural identity and benefit

from a meaningful life. A person must freely participate in the cultural processes of their society in order to fully utilize their intellectual and artistic capacities.[32] In a free society, people should have the right to participate in the cultural life of their community, and this participation should, in some way, influence the creation of the general will and collective identity. Cultural life is not only a human right but also a tool for fighting social injustice and discrimination.[33]

1. Threat to Cultural Diversity

One significant issue arising from AI's influence is the potential decline of cultural diversity. AI-driven algorithms, particularly in platforms like streaming services and social media, tend to prioritize widely popular content over more niche or culturally specific material. This can lead to the marginalization of minority cultures and the overshadowing of lesser-known forms of cultural expression.

- **Example:** Online platforms such as YouTube or Spotify utilize algorithms to recommend content based on user preferences, which tends to promote mainstream content. As a result, lesser-known, regional, or minority cultural expressions may be overlooked or hidden from wider audiences. The *European Commission* has noted how these algorithms can unintentionally suppress the visibility of more diverse cultural works by focusing on commercially popular content.[34]

2. Impact on Artistic Creativity and Authorship

AI's growing role in creating art—ranging from music and literature to visual art—raises concerns about the authenticity and value of human creativity. While AI can assist in creating artworks, it poses the risk of diminishing the role of human artists. As AI-generated content becomes more commonplace, it may challenge traditional notions of authorship and originality, potentially undermining the appreciation for human-created works.

- **Example:** AI platforms like OpenAI's Jukebox produce music that mimics human creativity. While this technology offers interesting possibilities, it also raises questions about the authenticity of these works and whether they could dilute the cultural value of music created by human artists.[35]

3. Unequal Access to Cultural Opportunities

Despite the potential of AI to democratize cultural participation, it can also exacerbate inequalities in access to cultural resources. Not everyone has the digital literacy or access to technology required to fully engage with AI-powered cultural platforms. This creates a divide where marginalized groups—especially those in lower-income areas—may not have equal opportunities to partake in or benefit from the cultural activities AI offers.

- **Example:** Many tools for creating and consuming digital art or accessing cultural resources require a level of technological access and skills. Marginalized communities, particularly in rural or impoverished areas, may not have the resources to access these platforms. A *UNESCO* report highlights that such disparities can worsen existing inequalities, limiting the ability of certain groups to participate in cultural and educational experiences.[36]

4. Cultural Homogenization

AI technologies can contribute to the standardization of cultural products. Since AI is often programmed to maximize engagement, it tends to favor content that follows well-established, popular formulas, which may hinder the creation of diverse, innovative cultural expressions. This leads to the risk of cultural homogenization, where diverse and experimental art forms are marginalized in favor of mass-appeal content.

- **Example:** In industries like film and music, AI increasingly influences both content creation and marketing strategies. This reliance on algorithms can lead to the prioritization of genres or themes that attract large audiences, while diminishing the visibility of more unconventional or innovative artistic works. *The Guardian* suggests that AI's role in prioritizing "clickable" content could stifle creativity and limit the diversity of cultural experiences available to audiences.[37]

5. Threat to Cultural Identity and Local Traditions

AI's influence in cultural production also poses a risk to the preservation of local cultures and traditions. As global digital platforms become more dominant, AI may inadvertently favor the global mainstream over local, indigenous cultures. This dynamic can lead to a loss of unique cultural identities, especially in smaller communities or those with limited access to technological tools.

- **Example:** The global nature of AI-driven platforms often means that content from dominant cultures overshadows local traditions and languages. A *UNESCO* study emphasizes the importance of ensuring that

AI technologies are used to support, rather than replace, traditional forms of cultural expression, helping to prevent the erosion of cultural diversity.[36]

- Peaceful Assembly

Peaceful assembly is the fundamental basis for the expression of thought and public opinion. Public opinion, no matter how brilliant, requires manifestation; and this manifestation of various opinions can only be achieved through peaceful assembly. Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freely participate in peaceful assemblies and associations. No one shall be compelled to belong to an association." Peaceful assembly is essential for political participation.[8] The right to peaceful assembly is an inseparable part of political actions and a means for the manifestation of the collective power of the people in the public sphere.[11] Peaceful assembly is the greatest symbol of a vibrant democracy and participatory governance. Political participation reflects the alignment and cooperation of people in public affairs.[38] The right to peaceful assembly is a right that, when guaranteed, ensures the greater and better protection of other rights. Through participation and peaceful assembly, the expression of public opinion within the government system is better and more effective.

1. Impact of Surveillance on Participation

AI-powered surveillance tools, such as facial recognition and crowd-monitoring technologies, are increasingly being used to track and monitor public demonstrations. While these tools are often promoted as safety measures, they can deter people from participating in protests due to fears of being identified and targeted by authorities. The presence of AI-driven surveillance can create a chilling effect, where individuals avoid public demonstrations to prevent potential legal or social consequences.

- **Example:** In countries like China, AI-based surveillance systems are commonly used to monitor citizens during protests and public gatherings, often leading to arrests or harassment of participants. This type of monitoring can discourage people from participating in peaceful demonstrations due to concerns about government retaliation.[39]

2. Suppression of Free Expression

AI's role in law enforcement and public monitoring can obstruct the free expression of dissent. By tracking individuals through social media, AI can help authorities identify protest organizers and participants, which may lead to harassment or detention. This infringes upon the fundamental right to express opinions and organize peacefully, as individuals may feel their right to assemble is being actively suppressed.

- **Example:** Authorities may use AI to track activists and protest organizers by analyzing their social media activity. This has led to concerns about the chilling effect on free expression, particularly when AI is used to disrupt peaceful assemblies. Organizations like the *Electronic Frontier Foundation* have raised alarms about how AI surveillance can limit political freedom.[40]

3. Disproportionate Policing and Violence

AI technologies used in crowd control and law enforcement can result in disproportionate responses to peaceful protests, especially when AI systems make errors in identifying participants or predicting violent behavior. This could lead to the use of excessive force or wrongful detentions, particularly against marginalized groups. Moreover, biased AI systems may exacerbate tensions and contribute to the over-policing of certain communities during protests.

- **Example:** AI systems that predict and monitor unrest may target certain groups based on historical data, which could result in over-policing of specific racial or ethnic communities. This could lead to the disproportionate use of force during peaceful assemblies, as seen in some incidents involving AI-driven predictive policing tools.[37]

- **4. Invasion of Privacy and Loss of Autonomy**

The use of AI in surveillance during protests can result in the collection of extensive personal data, infringing on participants' privacy rights. Through tools like facial recognition and location tracking, authorities can gather detailed information about individuals' identities, movements, and affiliations. This constant monitoring can discourage people from participating in public demonstrations, as they fear their personal information may be exploited or used against them.

- **Example:** AI surveillance technologies have been used to track protestors by monitoring their faces or geolocations, collecting sensitive data without consent. This intrusion into personal privacy may make people hesitate to participate in future protests, as they fear potential repercussions. The *UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Assembly and Association* has warned that such practices undermine the right to free assembly and expression.[41]
- **5. Manipulation of Public Discourse**

AI can manipulate public opinion by controlling the visibility of certain messages or protest movements on social media platforms. Algorithms prioritize content that generates the most engagement, often suppressing dissenting voices or limiting the visibility of protests that challenge dominant narratives. This manipulation can distort public perceptions of protests, weakening the collective voice of those participating and limiting the impact of peaceful assemblies.

- **Example:** Social media platforms use AI to filter and promote content, which can affect how protest movements are portrayed in the media. These algorithms may prioritize mainstream or commercial content, reducing the reach of politically or socially critical movements. As noted by *The New York Times*, such manipulation of content can undermine the effectiveness of peaceful assembly by diverting attention away from important social issues.[42]

Conclusion:

This article has explored the intersection of artificial intelligence and human rights through the lens of political freedoms, emphasizing the dual role of AI as both a facilitator and a potential threat. While AI systems can enhance governance, transparency, and participation, their unregulated deployment often leads to violations of privacy, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly. The study highlighted how authoritarian regimes, in particular, exploit AI to consolidate power and suppress dissent, demonstrating the urgent need for rights-based frameworks in the design, deployment, and oversight of these technologies. It is imperative that international human rights law not only respond to AI's challenges but proactively shape its development to protect and promote democratic values. Ensuring this alignment requires a global commitment to embedding human rights principles at every stage of AI policy and implementation.

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