

**Prompt: If there were an imaginary board room made up of historical figures discussing AI and algorithm transparency, what are 10 historical figures who would be in favor of more algorithm transparency and 10 historical figures who would advocate keeping the algorithms proprietary?**

**Gemini ([gemini.google.com](https://gemini.google.com)) response:**

**In Favor of Algorithm Transparency:**

- 1. Alan Turing (Computer Scientist):** A pioneer in computer science and artificial intelligence, Turing would likely advocate for understanding the "thinking" behind machines for continued development and to avoid unintended consequences.
- 2. Marie Curie (Scientist):** Known for her openness in scientific research, Curie would likely champion transparency to ensure the scientific integrity of AI development.
- 3. Ada Lovelace (Mathematician):** Often considered the world's first computer programmer, Lovelace valued clear communication of mathematical concepts. She would likely push for clear explanations of AI algorithms.
- 4. Ibn Al-Haytham (Scientist):** The "father of modern optics", Ibn Al-Haytham emphasized the importance of experimentation and observation in scientific discovery. He would likely advocate for transparency to allow for scientific scrutiny of AI.
- 5. Benjamin Franklin (Polymath):** A strong believer in public education and reason, Franklin would likely advocate for transparency to foster public trust and understanding of AI.
- 6. Imhotep (Engineer & Architect):** The famed Egyptian polymath would likely champion understanding the inner workings of complex systems like AI algorithms, similar to his approach to engineering marvels.
- 7. Hildegard of Bingen (abbess & polymath):** A mystic and polymath, Hildegard emphasized a holistic view of the world.

She would likely be interested in understanding the societal and ethical implications of AI transparency.

- 8. Confucius (Philosopher):** Confucius valued social harmony and ethical conduct. He would likely advocate for transparency to ensure AI aligns with human values.
- 9. Plato (Philosopher):** Concerned with the nature of knowledge and truth, Plato would likely advocate for transparency to ensure AI operates based on sound reasoning and logic.
- 10. Socrates (Philosopher):** Known for his questioning method, Socrates would likely promote transparency to facilitate open discussion and critical examination of AI algorithms.

### **Advocating for Proprietary Algorithms:**

- 1. J. Robert Oppenheimer (Physicist):** "The father of the atomic bomb" understood the potential dangers of powerful technologies. He might argue for secrecy to control the development of advanced AI.
- 2. Nikola Tesla (Inventor):** Tesla was known for his secretive inventions. He might prioritize protecting his intellectual property rights and maintaining control over his AI creations.
- 3. Sun Tzu (Military Strategist):** Sun Tzu emphasized deception and keeping one's strategies hidden from enemies. He might advocate for secrecy to give AI an advantage in potential future conflicts.
- 4. Leonardo da Vinci (Inventor):** While da Vinci shared his anatomical sketches, he also kept notebooks filled with secret inventions. He might prioritize keeping some aspects of AI development confidential.
- 5. Catherine the Great (Empress):** Catherine the Great was known for her ruthless pragmatism. She might prioritize state control over AI for political or military gain, even if it meant secrecy.

6. **Genghis Khan (Military Leader):** Known for his conquests and tactical brilliance, Genghis Khan might view AI as a weapon and advocate for secrecy to maintain a strategic advantage.
7. **Edward Teller (Physicist):** Another key figure in the Manhattan Project, Teller might prioritize national security concerns and advocate for secrecy in AI development.
8. **Machiavelli (Political Philosopher):** Machiavelli's philosophy focused on maintaining power. He might advocate for secrecy to give those in control an advantage with AI.
9. **Howard Hughes (Business Magnate):** Hughes was known for his reclusive personality and control over his business empire. He might prioritize keeping AI development proprietary to maintain a competitive edge.
10. **Henry Ford (Industrialist):** Focused on efficiency and mass production, Ford might prioritize controlling AI development to streamline processes and maintain a competitive advantage.

**Prompt: What would decolonial theorists say about the need for transparency in AI chatbot algorithms vs the need to keep algorithms proprietary?**

**Gemini ([gemini.google.com](https://gemini.google.com)):**

Decolonial theorists would likely raise a critical eye towards both transparency and proprietary aspects of AI chatbot algorithms, arguing that both approaches can perpetuate colonial systems of thought and control. Here's a breakdown of their potential arguments:

**Critique of Transparency:**

- **Tokenism:** Decolonial theorists might argue that transparency efforts can become performative, superficially revealing some aspects of the algorithm without addressing deeper biases or power structures inherent in its design.

- **Focus on the West:** Transparency efforts might prioritize Western modes of explanation, potentially excluding valuable perspectives from non-Western cultures.

### **Critique of Proprietary Algorithms:**

- **Power and Control:** Decolonial theorists would be wary of corporations or governments holding exclusive control over AI algorithms, arguing this replicates colonial power structures and creates new forms of control and exploitation.
- **Data Ownership and Bias:** They would point out that AI algorithms are trained on data sets that often reflect existing biases and inequalities. Keeping them proprietary would make it difficult to identify and address these biases.

### **What Decolonial Theorists Might Propose:**

- **Decolonizing AI Development:** They would advocate for including diverse voices and perspectives in the design and development of AI from the ground up, not just focusing on transparency after the fact.
- **Community Control and Ownership:** Decolonial theorists might propose AI development models that are more community-driven and controlled, ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared and that it is used for purposes that empower marginalized communities.

Here are some additional points to consider:

- **Transparency Can Be a Tool:** While transparency has limitations, it can still be a useful tool for decolonial approaches. By critically examining how algorithms work, decolonial theorists can identify and challenge biases.

- **Importance of Context:** Understanding the historical context of AI development and its potential impact on colonized communities is crucial for a decolonial approach.

Overall, decolonial theorists would move beyond the transparency vs. proprietary debate to propose a more fundamental shift in how AI is developed and used. They would argue for AI that is inclusive, equitable, and accountable to the communities it impacts.