

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project

Representing Muslims and Islam in the New York Times: 1850 – 2016.

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My research analyzes the representation of the Middle East and North Africa using textual sources from the New York Times (NYT) in the decade 1940-1949. As the NYT is considered a leading liberal and progressive news source my research explores whether or not the NYT gives an accurate representation of the region. I searched the term “Algeri\*” in the ProQuest search engine and analyzed 1666 articles in order to get an understanding of how the NYT presented Algeria and the Algerian people during that time. My initial finding is that the NYT in many instances has portrayed the inhabitants of Algeria-as well as North Africa as a whole- in many unfavorable ways. Examples of such include: Algerian Arabs were represented as ragged people. Berber Algerians were represented as ruthless warriors whose culture was made for war. Native North African leaders were portrayed as despotic and sneaky. Importantly the NYT portrays Algeria in the context of the Second World War. As such, Algeria as a political entity was depicted as an Allied front for the liberation of France; thus largely mentioned as an extension of France that must remain under French control.