

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in the New York Times: 1850 – 2016.

An Analysis of the Term Arab through the lens of Images in the New York Times in the years
1930-1939: The Middle East and Muslim Women in U.S. Media Representations

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The New York Times (NYT) is hailed as a fact-based, unbiased and in-depth news source. The following analysis is an evaluation of the textual representations associated with the term “Arab” as identified in the NYT for the decade of 1930 to 1939 that dismiss the NYT’s claim as “unbiased” in terms of Arab relations. A comprehensive archival evaluation of 509 NYT front page articles, editorials, and editorial cartoons, was implemented in the abovementioned period through Proquest, an online newspaper archive, for the purpose of gaining insight into the evolution of the Western lens on the Arab world via the term “Arab.” The following analysis of the NYT’s active misrepresentation of the Arab world is framed in the context of Edward Said’s *Orientalism* in its exemplification of the extreme misuse of “othering” and Western superiority in the U.S. media in relation to the region of the Middle East. For the decade 1930 to 1939, textual representations in articles that were inclusive of the term “Arab” painted a negative picture of the Arab world and the peoples associated with the region. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of The New York Times conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.