

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

Arab Tales: Deconstructing Imperialist Narratives in the New York Times
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My research questions the *New York Times* portrayal of the Middle East through textual and visual data from the years 1900-1909. The research demonstrated that a pattern of misrepresentation existed within the *NYT*. People of the Middle East were systematically represented as carefree, simple, and relaxed. This judgment reinforced notions of incompetency in areas of economic, civil, and political development further reinforcing the belief that there was a need for European assistance in the region. Edward Said's *Covering Islam* argues that the unquestioned authority of media improperly frames the construct of Islam for its readership. Such frames include an oppressive, outmoded, anti-intellectualist, and dangerous Islam. This type of representation in the *NYT* not only counters its reputation as a liberal and unbiased news source in the U.S., but also leads to skewed perceptions of this region within academic scholarship. I examined 1626 articles under the term "Arab" in the *NYT*. Through in-depth analyses of 106 relevant articles I document aforementioned reoccurring patterns. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of The New York Times conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.