

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

Media Project Abstract: The Middle East and Muslim Women in U.S. Media Representations
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This essay seeks to explore photos and texts from archival newspaper articles in *The New York Times* from 1910 to 1919 that contain the word “Arab”. From a pool of 71 *New York Times* articles for this period, there is a consistent pattern of a negative portrayal of the Middle East and North Africa. While most readers and scholars expect The New York Times to be objective, my analysis reveals otherwise. The term “Arab” is often associated with “barbaric” imagery, which is also linked to the “taming” of the Arab by Western colonial powers. I am using the work of Edward Said’s *Orientalism* as a paradigm to analyze why Western media outlets may illustrate Arabs in such a manner. The portrayal of Arabs as savage is significant because it appears to have developed in tandem with Western powers trying to justify their violent colonial presence in the region. I closely examined these articles through a key word search on *ProQuest*. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of The New York Times conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.