

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.
University of California, Davis
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Faisal Alghassab 2019
History

Nomads Through the Colonial Lens: An Analysis of the term “Kurd” in *The New York Times*
(1900-1909)

My research analyzes *The New York Times*' (NYT) representation of the Middle East through textual data from the decade of 1900-1909. I analyzed a total of 253 articles out of 495 articles. I found 39 articles that mentioned the term “Kurd” and which were relevant to my research. The articles examined were generally in the context of the Ottoman Empire during the eruptive first decade of the twentieth century. I noticed that "Kurds" were generally mentioned in relation to the Armenian massacres of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This issue was highly politicized and used by the European powers to pressure the Ottoman authorities to keep the Kurdish element in check. I argue that the representation of Kurdish people in *The New York Times* was based on oriental ideas of the classification of man. My research attempts to pin down the precursors and the historical basis of this representation by using linguistic evidence such as word choice, and by scrutinizing the context of the events being portrayed in the articles. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of *The New York Times* conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.