

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project  
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.  
University of California, Davis  
Undergraduate Research Conference &  
Middle East/South Asia Studies Student Research Symposium

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International Relations

The Middle East and North Africa in U.S. Media Representation: In the Eyes of the West,  
Exploring U.S Media Portrayals of Ottomans

My research investigates *The New York Times*' portrayal of the Middle East through textual and visual data from the years 1920-1929. I examined 1263 articles under the term "Ottoman" in the NYT. Through in-depth analyses of 97 relevant articles I document aforementioned reoccurring patterns. The preliminary findings suggest a pattern of misrepresentation and a notion of linear modernity are imposed on the subjects within *The New York Times*. Ottomans were represented as medieval, violent, and incapable. I argue that the representations of the Ottoman Empire during this period reinforced the notion that ideas of progress belong to secular European values and that European's assistance was required to transition the Ottoman Islamic Empire to the Turkish secular republic. Analysis of *The New York Times*' representations of Ottomans leads us to question the liberal and progressive posture of the newspaper. This research is a part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of *The New York Times* conducted in the Lab of Dr. Suad Joseph.