

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.
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Anthropology

The Middle East and North Africa in U.S. Media Representations: An Analysis of the Term
“Greek Orthodox/Eastern Orthodox” 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 researched relevant articles through the ProQuest Historical Newspaper database containing the search terms “Greek Orthodox” and “Eastern Orthodox” (the terms are considered synonymous in this context and often used interchangeably). I have examined 151 articles and will have completed work on 307 by the end of my research; 26 of these articles have been critically analyzed for their relevance. I have found that the decade's NYT representations of the Middle East are largely concerned with conflicts between religious groups and the legal protections of these groups, with intense focus on shifting colonial powers' involvement in these affairs. I argue that this trend in reporting perpetuates Middle Eastern peoples' religious affairs as inherently conflicting and that Western powers' competition in the region was narratively naturalized in light of this perpetuation. These misrepresentations depicted the Middle East as vitally unstable and in need of political and legal intervention. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of *The New York Times* conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.