

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 Muslim Women in U.S. Media Representations

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.