

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
“Islam” in *The New York Times* (1900-1909)

My research is dedicated to analyzing *The New York Times*' (NYT) representation of the Middle East from 1900 to 1909. I have examined 176 articles out of 588 where the term “Islam” was used. Out of the 176 articles, I have critically analyzed 61 for their relevance to the term. From my research I have found that the Middle East is represented through a narrow, essentializing lens. Furthermore, the first major trend I have found is the term “Islam” used inferiorly to Christianity. The NYT has highlighted many Christian conferences in which speakers would emphasize the necessity of introducing Christianity in the region and converting as many to become fully developed people. In addition, the rise of Pan-Islamism has led the NYT to represent the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire as volatile and the movement as a “propaganda.” These illustrations of the Middle East are essential to make note of because the narrative of “Islam” and the region still persists today. This research is part of a larger analytical project of *The New York Times* over 150 years conducted in Dr. Suad Joseph's lab in Anthropology.