

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.
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The Middle East in U.S. Media Representation: An Analysis of the Term "Mussulman" in *The New York Times* (1900-1909)

The term “Mussulman” is one of the variations of the word Muslim that was used by the West. I examined 220 articles published from 1900 to 1909 and analyzed relevant articles where the term “Mussulman” was used by *New York Times* (NYT) correspondents. Many articles portrayed “Mussulmans” in a manner that was essentializing and homogenizing. For instance, there was evidence that “Mussulmans” were as diverse as Christians, but they were portrayed as if they were all the same. They were often portrayed as revolutionaries who caused war, terror, and displaced Christian communities. The NYT articles often portrayed them as instigators of disorder leading to anarchy in countries inhabited by “Mussulmans” including Turkey and Kosovo. The reports at times represented them as having fanatic convictions and menacing attitudes towards Christians in places like Macedonia. The NYT also reported that some “Mussulmans” were mutilated or killed by Christian forces from Bulgaria implying that those perpetrators of violence should be punished as well. I argue that fundamentally, the “Mussulman” status was reduced to “failure” of civilization. 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.