

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
"Egypt" in *The New York Times* (1930-1939)

The term "Egypt" was used by the West in reference to both ancient and modern day Egypt. I examined 15,881 articles published from 1930 to 1939, and critically analyzed 213 relevant articles where the term "Egypt" was used by *New York Times* correspondents. I discovered that the while present day Egypt was represented as ahistorical and inferior to the West, ancient Egypt was depicted as a prosperous and model "civilization." I argue that this depiction of an affluent ancient Egypt was used as a contrast to further the representation of present day Egypt as subordinate, which justified British colonial acts that claimed to "save" the people of modern day Egypt from chaos and disorder. This misrepresentation engraved into American society that the people of the East were backwards and inferior. I suggest that such news media misrepresentation which is persistent in the 21st century, served as an opportunity for the West to portray itself and Christianity as heroic, modern, and advanced in order to depict the East and Islam as backwards. This research is part of an analytical project of *The New York Times* over 150 years conducted in Dr. Suad Joseph's lab.