

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

Christopher Alam 2020
International Relations Major

The Middle East and North Africa in U.S. Media Representations: An Analysis of the Term
“Kurd” in *The New York Times* (1900-1909)

Through in-depth qualitative analysis of *The New York Times*' articles that mention the term “Kurd” published between 1900-1909, the question I put forth is how the image of the Kurds in the Ottoman Empire shifted relative to the increased aggression towards Armenians. Initially the Kurds were depicted negatively, but as Sultan Abdulhamid II organized them into his military, they were portrayed more respectfully and given some status in the empire. What is missing in other explanations is the Kurds' role in Turkish-Armenian conflict and how it related to their international image. I argue that due to their role in the Hamidiye units, the Kurds drew much of the blame for the Armenian massacres, despite being under the Sultan's command. This is a better answer as it considers a possible reason as to why the Ottomans decided to incorporate the Kurds in the way that they did. This is an important question to answer because it will help to explain the reasons and events leading up to the Armenian Genocide, one of the worst massacres in history. This research was performed in the Dr. Suad Joseph Lab for *The New York Times* media project.