

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.
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Hannah Phillips 2019
History

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

My research is focused on analyzing the representation of the Middle East during the decade of 1900-1900 by using textual data from *The New York Times* (NYT). I have used the ProQuest Historical data base as the search tool with a focus on the "Gulf of Arabia" or "Persian Gulf". The terms is primarily represented as the "Persian Gulf" with few instances where it is referred to as the "Arabian Gulf" or the "Gulf of Arabia". Through my research, I have found 54 articles which are related to my term 32 of which are critically analyzed and of relevance. From my findings the region becomes central to a growing international conversation around interests of the establishment of the Baghdad Railway and obtaining a protectorate status over the Gulf regions. I argue that the NYT's representation of this regional discourse focuses on delegitimize local authority, and position the Gulf of Arabia as symbolizing an economic axis point which would allow for European Empires to strategically position themselves to control both East and West trading lines. This research is conducted along with Dr. Suad Joseph's media project that looks at *The New York Times* representation of the Middle East from 1850-2016.