

The Image and the Concept of the 'Orient'

HOW THE 'ORIENT' WAS SEEN AND IMAGINED BY THE WEST

"wath are the geographical contours of our imagined orient? paradoxically, as concept, the orient of the imagination constitutes the antithesis of the west, and such has no precise boundaries... the frontiers is not merely place; it is a moment"

thierry hentsch, imagine the middle east, 1944

Middle East (n.)

an extensive area of south-west asia and northern africa, now esp. the area extending from egypt to iran. also (esp. in early use): south asia and adjacent countries; an area perceived as lying between the near east and the far east.

Near East (n.)

the region comprising the countries of the eastern mediterranean, formerly also sometimes including those of the balkan peninsula, south-west asia, or north africa. cf. far east n., middle east n.

the region defined by near east is imprecise, allowing for some overlap with middle east.

Oriental (n. or adj.)

compare occidental (adj. and n.)

1. situated in the eastern part of a country or place, located in the orient; easterly.

2. originally: belonging to, occurring in, or characteristic of the countries or regions lying to the east of the mediterranean, the ancient roman empire, or the early christian world; of or relating to the near, middle, or far east. now: esp. of or relating to east asia.

Arab (n. and a.)

"arab" is defined independently of religious identity, and pre-dates the rise of islam, with historically attested arab christian kingdoms and arab jews. the earliest documented use of the word "arab" as defining a group of people dates from the 9th century bce.[14] islamized but non-arabized peoples, and therefore the majority of the world's muslims, do not form part of the arab world but comprise what is the geographically larger and diverse muslim world.



5th century BC
greek hoplite and persian warrior depicted fighting. ancient kyllix.



the description had started in 1200 in England and was concluded in the 14 th century in spain



Frederick II (left) meets al-Kamil



1486 peregrinato in terram sanctam erhard reuwich

female and male garb of the saracens



1530 Turkish Slave Francesco Mazzola



1581 Apotheose der Schlacht von Lepanto (1571) Paolo Caliari

venedig palazzo ducale



1748 Sultanin Joseph Marie Vien



472 bc, Aeschylus' *The Persians*, a play

democracy against monarchy
he magnifies the invader and upholds athenian democracy against persian monarchy. the military successes of the Greeks, the „victory of western intelligence and liberty over the materialism and despotism of the orient.“



Aeschylus 472 bc

Call Of The Synod Genesis Of Division

Pope Urban II assigned 1095 the synod after Clermont-Ferrand. He called his **First Crusade**.

at the assembly he spoke to the people and explained, that the holy land was henceforth under the influence of a profane nation, that the temple of the lord had become possession of the devil and that the laws of pure belief had to be subservient for the pagan superstition. church was under the authority of the ones who did not have a share of the resurrection, but of those who will have to serve for the maintenance of the everlasting infernal fire. the good people were forced to impurity by the dogs, which invaded god's heir.



Pope Urban II, (ca.1035 northern France, 1099 rome)

Frederick II, the Sicilian Holy Roman Emperor Friend of Islam

the Sultan of Egypt al Kamil summoned frederick II into Jerusalem and entertained him in the most lavish fashion. when the muezzin, out of consideration for frederick, failed to make the morning call to prayer, the emperor declared: "I stayed overnight in jerusalem, in order to overhear the prayer call of the muslims and their worthy god" the saracens had a good opinion of him, so it was no surprise that **after five months jerusalem was handed over to him**, taking advantage of the war difficulties of al-Kamil. the fact that this was regarded in the arab as in the Christian world as high treason did not matter to him. when certain members of the knights templar wrote al-kamil a letter and offered to destroy Frederick if he lent them aid, al-Kamil handed the letter over to Frederick.

the Council of Vienna 1312

Said: „the heart of the muslim is hardened and can neither be converted by word nor by sword.“

journeys to observe political suspiciousness

with the growing power of the ottomans **the journey to the east was no longer only pious (pilgrimage) or commercial (trade) but took on the task of observation** - today called espionage - to evaluate the opposing power. Niccolo Machiavelli was one of the politicians



Niccolò Machiavelli (1469 – 1527 Florence)

was an Italian philosopher, writer, and is considered one of the main founders of modern political science.

10- 14 century scientific advancements

the Arabs preserve and enhance the knowledge of the ancient world and facilitate the occident to develop this knowledge and allow the foundation of the modern natural science and the humanities

First Translation of 1001 Nights gaze of the orient

the main frame story concerns a king and his new bride. upon discovering his wife's infidelity, the king, shahryar, has her executed and then declares all women to be unfaithful. he begins to marry a succession of virgins only to execute each one the next morning. scheherazade, the vizier's daughter, offers herself as the next bride and her father reluctantly agrees. on the night of their marriage, scheherazade begins to tell the king a tale, but does not end it. the king is thus forced to postpone her execution in order to hear the conclusion. the next night, as soon as she finishes the tale, she begins (and only begins) a new one, and the king, eager to hear the conclusion, postpones her execution once again. so it goes on for 1,001 nights.

the original arabic version is influenced by different other stories. Persian tales influenced by Indian folklore and adapted into Arabic by the 10th century. Stories recorded in Baghdad during the 10th century.

the first european version was translated into french by antoine galland from an arabic text. this 12-volume book, included stories that were not in the original arabic manuscript. „aladdin's lamp“ and „all baba and the forty thieves“ appeared first in galland's translation and cannot be found in any of the original manuscripts.



Antoine Galland (1646 Rollot, 1715 Paris)

was a French orientalist and archaeologist first translator of 1001 nights



Persian Letter construction of the Orient = construction of the west

he achieved literary success with the publication of his lettres persanes, a satire based on the imaginary correspondence of a persian visitor to paris, **pointing out the absurdities of contemporary society**



Baron de La Brède et de Montesquieu (1689 Bordeaux, 1755 Paris)

was a French social commentator and political thinker. he is famous for his articulation of the theory of separation of powers, taken for granted in modern discussions of government and implemented in many constitutions throughout the world.

490 b.c.

499- 448 bc Greco- Persian wars

330 bc Alexander the Great conquers Persia

4 th century emperor Constantin confessed himself to Christianity

in the 8 th century the islam dispreads from the orient towards the Occident

1100

1096- 1396 crusades

1300- 1683 Ottoman expansion

Republic of Venice nominates itself in the middle ages to the only maritime gate to the orient

1600

1453 conquering of Constantinople

university Oriental studies became systematic during the Renaissance, with the linguistic and religious aspects initially continuing to dominate. there was also a political dimension, as translations for diplomatic purposes were needed, even before the west engaged actively with the east beyond the ottoman empire

1700

1650 travels to the Orient start

napoleons military campaign in Egypt encourages the interest of the pharaohs.

1683 siege of Vienna by the Ottomans

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1840 *Conquest of Constantinople 1204*
Eugène Delacroix



1863 *Turkish Bath*
Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres



1869 *Pelt Merchant of Cairo*
Jean Leon Gérome



1893 *Oriental Dancers*
Paul Lois Bouchard



1992 *Aladdin*
Walt Disney Feature Animation.



Burka (Burqa, Barqa, Birqa)
Kabul Art Galerie



2006 Taliban
Nzz Images



2007 Platt Spencer
World Press Photo 2007
Young Libanesen In Beirut

1798 Bonaparte orient as colonial interest

his egyptian expedition included a group of 167 scientists: mathematicians, naturalists, chemists and geodesists among them; their discoveries included the rosetta stone and their work was published in the description de l'égypte in 1809



Letters From Turkey the Turkomania

lady mary accompanied hre husband to vienna, and thence to adrianople and istanbul. he was recalled in 1717, but they remained at istanbul until 1718. the story of this voyage and of her observations of eastern life is told in the turkish embassy letters, a series of lively letters full of graphic description.

the turkomania

in the late 18th and the beginning 19th century, **the interest of europeans in turkish culture and in oriental manners turned to euphoric enthusiasm**, the so called turkomania. at german courts the turkish fashion was considered to be state-of-the-art. people were celebrating parties disguised as sultans wearing a turban and baggy pants. the passion for the orient was enhanced in wide parts of the population by the bestselling letters of lady mary wortley montagu, who was the wife of the english ambassador in constantinople.

the Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (26 may 1689 – 21 august 1762)

was an english aristocrat and writer. montagu is today chiefly remembered for her letters, particularly her letters from turkey, the first example of a secular work by a woman about the muslim orient.



1779 *Nathan der Weise*
Gotthold Lessing
religious tolerance

nathan compares the religion, judaism, islam and christianity. he is saying that each of us lives by the religion we have learned from those we respect.



Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (22 January 1729 – 15 February 1781)

was a german writer, philosopher, dramatist, publicist, and art critic



1815 *West-Östliche Divan*
influential model for religious and literary syntheses between the ,orient' and the ,occident'

the work was inspired by the Persian poet Hafiz. the book can be seen as a symbol for a **stimulating exchange and mixture between orient and occident** while the expression west-eastern does not only refer to german- middle-eastern, but also latin-persian, christian-muslim stimulus. the attempt was to bring orient and occident together.



Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe , 1749 – 1832

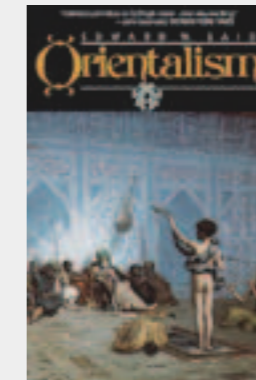
was a German writer. Goethe's works span the fields of poetry, drama, literature, theology, philosophy, humanism and science.

„Wer sich selbst und andere kennt, Wird auch hier erkennen: Orient und Okzident Sind nicht mehr zu trennen.“

„Und mag die ganze Welt versinken, Hafis, mit dir, mit dir allein Will ich wetteifern! Lust und Pein Sei uns, den Zwillingen, gemein! Wie du zu lieben und zu trinken, Das soll mein Stolz, mein Leben sein.“

1916 School of Oriental Studies

the school is a college of the university of london and the only higher education institution in the uk **specialising in the study of asia, africa and the near and middle east**. the school was founded in 1916 during the acme of colonialism. the magistrate from the home country was educated at soas to get an understanding about the place he was sent to.



1978 *Orientalism*
Edward Said
different sight

in the book, said says that orientalism, especially **the academic study** of, and discourse, political and literary, about the arabs, islam, and the middle east that primarily originated in england, france, and then the united states actually **creates a divide between the east and the west**.



Edward Said, (1935 Palestine, 2003 New york)

American literature-theorist und- critic of **Palestine origin**



2001 Georg W. Bush

after september 11, Bush **announced a global war on terrorism**. the Afghan Taliban regime was not forthcoming with osama bin Laden, so Bush ordered the invasion of afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban regime.[188] in his January 29, 2002 State of the Union address, he asserted that an "axis of evil" consisting of North Korea, Iran, and Iraq was "arming to threaten the peace of the world" and "pose[d] a grave and growing danger".



Georg W. Bush (1946 Texas)

2001- 2009 43rd President of the United States

1800

1798 French invasion of Egypt

18- 19 jh Orientalism

1900

1890- 1930 acme of colonialism

end of 19 th century Orientalism became a synonyme of erotic paintings

2000

postcolonialism (postcolonial theory, post-colonial theory) is a specifically post-modern intellectual discourse that holds together a set of theories found among the texts and sub-texts of philosophy, film, political science and literature. these theories are reactions to the cultural legacy of colonialism.

2001 the September 11 attacks were a series of coordinated suicide attacks