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Orientalism

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Textual attitude

Orient, like the fierce lion, was something to be encountered and dealt with to a certain extent because the texts made that Orient possible. Such an Orient was silent, available to Europe for the realization of projects that involved but were never directly responsible to the native inhabitants, and unable to resist the projects, images, or mere descriptions devised for it. ...such a relation between Western writing (and its consequences) and Oriental silence the result of and the sign of the West's great cultural strength, its will to power over the Orient.

Objectifying Orientals

Project

Distructive

Could be cut across as de Lesseps cut across Suez

So far as its strictly scholarly work was concerned, Orientalism did a **great many things**. During its great age in the nineteenth century it produced scholars; it increased the number of languages taught in the West and the quantity of manuscripts edited, translated, and commented on; in many cases, it provided the Orient with sympathetic European students, genuinely interested in such matters as Sanskrit grammar, Phoenician numismatics, and Arabic poetry.



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U nchanging Orient,

Can any other than a political
master-slave relation produce
the Orientalized Orient?

A typology that makes of the studied "object" another being with regard to whom the studying subject is transcendent;

A homo Sinicus, a homo Arabicus (and why not a homo Aegypticus, etc.), a homo Africanus, the **man-the "normal man"**, it is understood-being the European man of the historical period, that is, since Greek antiquity.



Anthropo-centrism in alliance with Europo-centrism

Semites and other "low" Orientals

The "good" Orient was invariably a classical period somewhere in a Long-gone India, whereas the "bad" Orient lingered in present-day Asia, parts of North Africa, and Islam everywhere.

Orientalists and sociologists

Regional studies

Regional studies

Post-war world was based on the oriental studies

Anti-orientalistic protests: orientalism does not work

Again: Orientalists' view

Constant reactive Orient, active West: jury

Jury sets norms,
Normative power,
Paper, citation, ranking,
Rainbow norms



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Thanks.