
Zachary Lockman’s book is a very good analysis of the history of the Middle East and its close relation with the information generated about the Middle East. I assigned this book to give you a perspective about the political nature of the production of knowledge especially in the context of the modern Middle East. Below are some questions that you should keep in mind in writing your analysis of the book. My immediate concern is to make sure that you have a certain grasp on the main arguments of Lockman. Thus, I ordered these questions in their relation to the chapters of the book. This book refers to many authors and many works and I do not want you to get confused with all these names. These questions were designed to help you follow the argument of the book without getting lost in the names.

Please communicate your difficulties and concerns regarding this assignment. Come to my office hours, or e-mail me if you think you are having difficulties in understanding Lockman’s analysis or my questions. I am here to help!

**Chapters One and Two**

According to Lockman, following “the age of ignorance for centuries … Islam was a screen onto which Europeans could and did project their anxieties and conflicts about who and what they were or were not, a mirror in which Europeans could discern the traits that seemed to make them unique by highlighting how different, defective and inferior Islam was” [p. 37]. What period exactly does he refer to with “the age of ignorance”? Based on his discussion, how would you characterize the “European” perspectives on Islam up until the renaissance period?

After the creation of a new position for a chair in Arabic at the College de France in Paris, other European institutions followed the course in creating positions for scholars studying “the Orient.” How did this image of the Orient change between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries? How did this change, according to Lockman, relate to the status of the Ottoman Empire?
Chapter 3
It is in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that we see a correlation between European encroachment in “the Orient” and the rise of, what Lockman refers to as, *homo Islamicus*. In this chapter, Lockman seems to emphasize a very important link between the formation of Orientalist knowledge and the expansion of colonial power. Explain this correlation, which seems to assume a very critical role for the remainder of the chapters.

Chapter 4
Why does Lockman refer to the post-WWII era as the “American century”? Orientalism and Modernization theory seems to dominate the scholarly agenda in this particular period that Lockman focuses on in this chapter. Briefly explain these schools and give concrete examples of how they influenced the US foreign policy and the Middle East region.

Chapter 5
In the late 70s, American (and British) scholars challenged both Orientalism and the Modernization theory. Why did these critiques emerge at this particular time? How did such criticisms influenced the link between the scholarly work and foreign policy explained in the former chapter?

Chapter 6
Describe briefly the main argument of Said’s *Orientalism* (i.e. Lockman’s reading of him). How does Lockman relate Orientalism to Foucault’s concept of “discourse”? How was Said’s book perceived, and what were its shortcomings? How did the focus on this seminal work influence the reaction against Orientalists and Modernization theory in 1970s?

The papers must be typed, double-spaced, and should be about three to four pages in length. Please use Times New Roman 12pt-size font. You are encouraged to print on both sides of the paper or to use recycled paper. Please staple your assignments instead of using paper clips. Please do not use a cover page or a transparent folder for your assignment.