

As the number of terrorist attacks rise in the name of religion, we begin to see that not all of the tragic phenomena that is occurring around the world are shown to be equal. It was not long ago that the international community was left shattered with the sudden repeated acts of violence of gunman terror, stabbings, and bombings that happened in Europe. Not only in France, but also in Istanbul, has these attacks on the peacefulness within our lives have happened. But as not all tragedies are shown to be equal, it is important to notice that while these bombings and acts of terrorism were acknowledged throughout the media, that constant daily violence that is seen throughout the Middle East in countries such as Syria or in this case, Lebanon are left to be forgotten. This is not only occurs with tragedies, but also with heroism as we see that a selfless saint, Adel Termos, who selflessly threw himself on a man with a explosive vest in front of a group of people in a mosque, is gone largely unnoticed. This overshadowing is described as a phenomenon as "Orientalism" by a scholar named Edward Said. The term is shown to describe where the the Western identity seem to be superior in comparison with all non-Western identity people. This seems true as we see that the media overshadows the tragedies that it wants to cover, or can culturally relate to.

In conclusion, it is without a doubt that orientalist is apparent within how we look at these international tragedies and affects how we actually feel relation with them. Cognitive empathy, or the ability to be able to be in someone else's shoes, is needed more now more than ever in a digital age where social connection can be achieved online. The essay also showed how we need to rethink how we are educated about cultural literacy and understanding about another countries politics in this digital age where we can be affected by a mass amount of uninformed information. Moreover, it showed how the secondary role of media should be to educate the viewers and create a media information literacy. The essay opened my eyes to acknowledge that things in this century, especially things that we account for such as the safety flags of facebook, can cause a controversy and a spike of insecurity for those who are overshadowed such as the Lebanese people in the essay.