

Said Response—

- I agree with Said's interpretation of the treatment of the oriental, but I also believe that **the Oriental could have had potential if allowed**. Said states "the oriental is irrational, depraved (fallen), childlike, "different"; thus the European is rational, virtuous, mature, "normal" (Said 8). From what I can see **Europeans never really considered the fact that Orientals had their way of living and thinking**.
- The idea of **Europeans believing they are superior to Orientals shows racism** which has been an issue for many centuries. **Some assume they know better than others simply because they are educated but that does not give them authority over others**. **It is completely wrong to put oneself above others based on race, intelligence, or any other reason**. For example, **if an Egyptian tries to explain their thoughts and stumbles on his words or his explanation is "lengthy," that cannot classify him as irrational (Said 7)**. **Many can have trouble explaining what they think or where they stand on a certain issue**. **It can even happen among the Europeans but they are not considered disordered after that**. Or if someone does not have the same education as another person, they should not be thought of as inferior.
- The british believed that they were superior to the egyptians since they had more knowledge about the other country, therefore giving themselves the right to dominate, as Said states "To have such knowledge of such a thing is to...have authority over it" (Said 3).
- Notice the way Said uses the words "penetrate" and "wrestle" as a way to describe what the british were capable of. I think that between the two countries, **it was all about power and dominance**.
- Said explains how England fought to justify their **twisted** idea of power throughout the chapter by analyzing England's sense of entitlement. For example, one of the main reasons why England saw that they were better fit to rule over Egypt was because of the excessive amount of knowledge England knew about Egypt's history.

- In “Knowing the Oriental”, the author, Edward W. Said, explains the role of knowledge in the justification of British colonial rule in the Orient, primarily Egypt. The article claims that the British use their knowledge of a culture's history and character to rationalize taking control. However, Said says that language and thought regarding Orientalism are constrained in a limiting and dehumanizing way. Western thought is elevated as scientific in nature, and taken for granted as the truth. Any Oriental person who would dissent is considered a troublemaker or simply too childish to understand what is best for them. **It is in this way that cultures are divided into superior, ruling groups (British colonials), versus inferior peoples who need someone more powerful and intelligent to guide them (people considered Oriental).**

This is very similar, if not the same, to how we culturally justify disenfranchisement in American society. *When we limit the traits someone can have, or the things they can think or feel, they become less human to us, and therefore easier to warrant exploiting. If we consider everything they say to be inherently infantile and irrational, then we can safely ignore them.*

- The western civilization is portrayed as a dominate male figure and the female is portrayed as a weak, and powerless female figure. The privileged western civilization “penetrates” (Said 11) the helpless orientals with their ideas and takes control over “her”.
- **although Britain was able to make Egypt economically stronger, they also were *negatively* changing Egypt’s society by forcing Western culture.** **With the help of Lord Cromer from 1882 to 1907, Britain’s exports to Egypt were the same as to the rest of Africa which shows that Egypt’s economy was growing with the help of Britain. However, with British control, society was changing because of the addition of more Westerners such as scholars, missionaries, businessmen, soldiers, and teachers.** **These people saw themselves as people who are directing Egypt into becoming a prosperous nation when they were really forcing them into becoming a Western nation.**