

ABSTRACT:

When imagining the “Middle East,” one might think of a particular region, identity construction, or even a style of cuisine. Yet, to what extent is the global perception of the Middle East rooted in strategic Western invention? When Edward W. Said published *Orientalism* in 1978, he prompted numerous critics—including contemporary ones like Ali Behdad and Magda M. Al-Nowaihi—to consider the precarious discursive representations of “the Orient” and the Middle East in Western scholarship. I extend this conversation in my analysis of *Season of Migration to the North* by Tayeb Salih and *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk, where I seek to connect the themes of Middle Eastern literature with the concerns of postcolonial criticism. By focusing on the issues of double-consciousness, migrant assimilation, and the subjugation of women, I demonstrate how select Middle Eastern characters embody quintessentially postcolonial predicaments and challenge global understandings of the Middle East.

Keywords: Postcolonial, Migration, Middle East, Double consciousness, Hybrid