“Licentious Barbarians”: Representations of North African Muslims in Britain

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ABSTRACT This study traces the various historical contexts under which representations of North African Muslims were created from the sixteenth century until the nineteenth century in Britain. It shows that the image of Muslims that is being propagated in the media today as sexually licentious, oppressive towards women and barbaric were created from the earliest encounters between Westerners and Muslims from North Africa in the sixteenth century and became gradually consolidated in both fictional and factual writings throughout a few centuries up until the nineteenth century. While historical contexts experienced change as a result of the advent and decline of the Ottoman Empire as well as the emergence of Western Imperialism in the nineteenth century, images of Muslims remained largely the same.

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British citizens are sinking under the weight of astronomical welfare costs, a majority of which go to Muslim immigrants, both legal and illegal, many of whom come from polygamous marriages. Huge numbers of Muslims contribute nothing but live off the state. According to government statistics we spend a minimum £18 billion a year only to feed Muslims. And the majority of them don't have even a basic College degree! Daily Telegraph reported in 2012 statistics that 75% of all Muslim women are unemployed while 50% of all Muslim men are unemployed – rise from 13% for men and 18% for wo