

How is the growth of Islamic culture changing the pre-existing Islamophobia in America for the better or for the worse?

Jacobs, Rick. "The Sin of Showing Hatred of Islam." *Wwww.nytimes.com*. The New York Times, 25 Sept. 2012. Web. 9 Mar. 2013. <<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/25/opinion/the-sin-of-sowing-hatred-of-islam.html>>.

Advertisements influence American's opinions drastically. Ads can reinforce stereotypes centered around the Muslim religion. They paint the image of all Muslims as violent, evil, and bent on overthrowing the Western democracies. "It's not Islamophobia, it's Islamorealism," is a slogan on a billboard at a train station. The stereotype and feelings of hate directed towards any Muslim reading this billboard would be unimaginable.

This article helps my understanding of the perception of Islam in America by introducing the idea of the Muslim religion being falsely advertised. It gave me background information that was easy to comprehend about prejudice against Muslims. Also hearing the opinions of the Muslims being stereotyped gave the argument an interesting prospective; I understand their feelings about the bus billboards now, and how it personally hurts them. Taking what I have learned from this article, I might want to continue to research how advertisements effect the treatment of Muslims.

Service, Omar Sacirbey| Religion News. "What Muslims Want in a New Pope." Washington Post. The Washington Post, 11 Mar. 2013. Web. 14 Mar. 2013. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/what-muslims-want-in-a-new-pope/2013/03/11/c61b4dc0-8a83-11e2-a88e-461ffa2e34e4_story_1.html>.

According to this article, a new pope is a big deal for more than just the Catholic Church. Muslims believe that a younger pope will be able to influence the relationships of Muslims and Christians living along-side each other. Islam and Catholicism represent 40 percent of the worlds population, and most relationships have been shaped by conflict. Muslim extremist attacks on Christians across the Middle East have caused tension between the groups; a new pope could finally help smooth over the tension.

This article will help expand my understanding of the relationships between religions. Catholics and many other religions stereotype Muslims as violent because of actions of the small population of Muslim extremist. Most of the Islam faith hopes that the new pope will be a chance for Catholics and Muslims to stop fighting one another. This will help my development of a research question by providing new information. I think I would like to look less at the influence of the media and more at Islamophobia's change due to the growth of the religion. I think with the growth of the religion, the new pope might be more accepting of the culture.

Talwar, Divya. "Bus Advertising Campaign Tackles Islamophobia." BBC News. BBC, 04 May 2011. Web. 15 Mar. 2013. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12956746>>.

A campaign began in London where 100 buses advertised pro-Muslim slogans. The goal was to work to eliminate negative stereotypes commonly associated with the religion. "Through this campaign we are trying to clarify the true teachings of Islam, to speak out against injustices, suicide bombings and terrorism," said Rafiq Hayat, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association's national president. In London Islamophobia is becoming increasingly common; last year a poll found 58% of adults living there linked Islam with extremism and 69% of adults believed it encouraged the repression of women.

With the information I have gathered from this article I am ready to develop a research question. This article touched on key Muslim stereotypes and problems with Islamophobia. Islamophobia is becoming so common in cities such as London I would like to do more research on it in the United States. In London Islamophobia is worsening because of the growth of the religion, and the same thing could be happening in America. This article is useful because it gave me enough information on Islamophobia to develop a clear, focused, and complex research question.

Iftikhar, Arsalan. "Pamela Geller's New Subway Ads." The Daily Beast. Newsweek/Daily Beast, 12 Dec. 2012. Web. 15 Mar. 2013.
<<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/12/11/pamela-geller-s-new-subway-ads.html>>.

Pamela Geller is a controversial anti-Muslim blogger who is no stranger to Islamophobia. Geller has been known to "cherry-pick" certain verses of the Quran to stroke anti-Muslim fear in America. The subway ads encourage the thinking that Muslims are inherently violent. Actually people have found the Quran is far less violent and bloody than the Bible, just stereotyped as worse.

What I learned in this article helped me to answer my research question. The growth of Islam religion in America has led to the anti-Muslim bloggers such as Geller. Her "cherry-picking" technique is causing ordinary Americans to be exposed to stereotypes when doing simple things like riding the subway. With the influence of the media the Islamophobia in America is worsening. This is only one source but it provides plenty of information to begin to draw conclusions on my research question.

Ghosh/Dearborn, Bob. "Islamophobia: Does America Have a Muslim Problem?" Time. Time, 30 Aug. 2010. Web. 17 Mar. 2013
<<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2011936-4,00.html>>.

This article touches on the opposition many Americans have to the construction of the Mosques. It talks about conflicts over Mosques in Wisconsin and the more famous conflict about building a Muslim cultural center two blocks from Ground Zero. The article attempts to answer the difficult questions, Does the U.S. have a problem with Islam? Have the terrorist attacks of 9/11 — and the other attempts since — permanently excluded Muslims from full assimilation into American life?

The information I gathered from this article is beneficial to answering my research question. The growth of the Islam culture has caused the need for new Mosques; Unfortunately, Americans are greatly opposed to the idea of the new Mosques. The conflict is causing Islamophobia to be expressed even more. The Americans only exposed to stereotypes are becoming more and more Islamophobic and it is worsening the pre-existing conditions. With the information this article provided, I can almost completely answer my research question.

Freedman, Samuel G. "ON RELIGION; On TV, an Everyday Muslim as Everyday American." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 09 Feb. 2013. Web. 17 Mar. 2013. <<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/09/us/in-a-commercial-a-tacit-acceptance-of-islam-in-america.html>>.

To help erase the Muslim stereotypes, Mujahid Abdul-Rashid is featured in a popular commercial. The commercial tackles stereotypes by showing him as an average man fishing, playing in his yard with two toddlers, and sitting down to a family meal. In the words of Samuel Freeman, "What I had just seen was something rare and laudable: what seems to be the first mass-market product commercial featuring an identifiably Muslim person not as a security risk, not as a desert primitive, but as an appealing, everyday American."

This article provides enough information for me to answer my research question completely. With the growth of the Islamic culture, pre-existing Islamophobia has changed for the worse, but with the help of the media this trend will not continue. This article gives hope that not everyone is Islamophobic and we can reevaluate American Muslims identity for the better. With the proper influences from the media the "American dream" can stay alive and Muslim stereotypes can be eliminated from American culture.