

Edward W. Said's *Orientalism* (1978) pp. 31-49: Worksheet

I. General Questions

1. As Said uses it, what precisely is covered by the term 'Orient'? The Islamic world? Asia? The entire non-Western world? (To put it another way, how much of the world is NOT the Orient?)
2. What precisely does Said mean by the term 'Orientalism'?
3. Said uses the words of a number of named authors/speakers to illustrate what he means by Orientalism. Who are they, and on what occasions did they utter the words? Why these people?
4. What intellectual sources seem to underlie Said's position in this passage? (These might be mentioned explicitly or merely hinted at indirectly.)
5. Where (if anywhere) does the argument seem specifically relevant to the issue of Western images of Japan?
6. What solutions, if any, does Said put forward to the problems he describes here?
7. What flaws or inconsistencies, if any, might be found in Said's case?

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II. Specific Questions

7. What does Said mean by the following phrases?
 - a. 'knowledge and power, the Baconian themes' p. 32
 - b. 'a Platonic essence' p. 38
 - c. 'the extent to which colonial rule was justified in advance by Orientalism' p. 39
 - d. 'an exercise of cultural strength' p. 40
 - e. 'to polarize the distinction' p. 46
 - f. 'the apogee of Orientalist confidence' p. 49