

Orientalism

One of Margaret and J.J. Brown's favorite trips was their around-the-world tour to Japan, China, and India. J.J. made business connections in Japan and China while Margaret shopped for souvenirs like slippers and kimonos.

A fascination with Orientalism had shaped Europe and America in the Browns' time. But rather than reflect or celebrate the vast and varied cultures of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, Orientalism oversimplified and often demonized peoples and their cultures.

Scholar Namrata Verghese says "Orientalism is a fraught framework that grows out of [these] bloody histories of colonialism, capitalism, and domination. Orientalism names a power struggle that stretches back centuries and continues to structure our lives."

Do you think Orientalism still shapes our lives today?

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

"European culture came into being by setting itself off against the Orient as a collection of binaries - 'East' and 'West,' foreign and familiar, primitive and progressive, colonizer and colonized."

- Edward Said

For 10 days
I will be in
London for 10
days in the
middle of
the year.

