

The pursuit of Pashtoon image in the Orientalists Discourse

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Abstract:

The leading educational and research disciplines are considered as an outgrowth of European colonialism. The learning brigades along with European colonizers also known as Orientalists have constructed a knowledge base that has thrived theories and notions regarding the Near Eastern and Far Eastern societies , cultures, languages, peoples, history and civilizations in general. After the Second World War (1945), Orientalism was emerged as career that presented contents and notions written and interpreted by the colonial masters. This paper is going to discuss the construction of Pashtoon's identity in the context of European colonialism. The paper probes the different cadres of Orientalists that, presented biased sketches of the indigenous Pashtoon and Afghan people they countered in three wars during the colonial era. It is interesting to note that, even today most of the notions wrapped in the modern orientalist narratives are backed by evidences provided the so-called learning brigades of the colonial era. Triangulation of different narratives indicates that, the Pashtoon image constructed through colonial/orientalist archives has a connection with the British Empire's agendas of hegemony and domination. Different cohorts of orientalist have presented varied perspective that evidently the legitimacy of the colonial tools for subjugation.

Key words: Pashtoon Image, Orientalists, Discourse.