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## Notes Concerning Reporting in the Middle East

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Alcoverro recounts his experiences as a correspondent accredited not only by a ministry, but by an entire civilisation. According to writer Edward W. Said, a European in the Middle East is fully aware of the differences which separate him from his milieu, maintaining a relationship of inequality with it. The example of Lebanon, however, shows how the frontier between the two worlds has been transgressed. Before the civil war, Lebanon had the freest, most unchecked press of all the Arab countries of the Machrek region. As a result of the war and of the second conflict in the Gulf of Persia, Beirut's press has lost a good deal of its former clout. At present, two of the Arab world's most widely read newspapers, "Al Hayal" and "Ckark el ausat", which have close ties to Saudi Arabia, are published outside the Middle East. In all the countries of the Machrek there are Ministries of Information which direct and supervise the media, almost always in the hands of the State or single ruling parties. Political divisions between States in the Middle East constitute a great obstacle to the freedom of expression and movement of their populations.