

The changing portrayal of Asma al-Assad in the western media



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(Lorena White)

THE CHANGING PORTRAYAL OF ASMA AL-ASSAD IN THE WESTERN MEDIA



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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 20 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.1in. Essay from the year 2013 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Region: Western Europe, grade: 8, Maastricht University, language: English, abstract: Over the past two years, the civil war in Syria has been one of the major topics in Western media. It began in 2011 with demonstrations against the Assad regime. It is estimated by the United Nations that over 100, 000 have died and millions have been displaced since then (Tomasevic, 2013). One of the major focuses set by the media is on Bashar al-Assad, the current President of Syria, who is called upon by many in- and outside the country to resign (Wilkinson and Smith-Spark, 2013). In the early terms of his Presidency, Assad symbolized a sign of hope for a more modern and democratic Syria - a significant factor was his wife, born and educated in Great Britain, who spoke out publicly for human rights and peace. The two were represented as a glamorous and westernized couple by the press throughout the years. This perception abruptly changed with the uprisings in Syria which have begun in March 2011 (Goodspeed, 2012). However, Bashar al-Assads wife, Asma, is still portrayed as a caring First Lady by social media such as instagram and facebook used by the Assad Regime (Dewey, 2013). As a result of her presentation as a liberal and peace-aiming figure in the past, many, in particular women, still hope that the countrys First Lady will stand up against violence, however, she remains silent until this point (UN ambassador wives, 2012). One wonders, how such a positive and one-sided depiction of Asma al-Assad in the Western media was achieved in the first place Who was holding the reins for this And why...



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