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**“Complex Inequalities: The Case of Muslim Americans after 9/11”**

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The events of September 11, 2001 have redefined the meaning of religious minority identity for Muslim Americans. When religious identities are central to US political conflicts, they shift from supporting adaptation to American society to facilitating inequality. By using newspaper articles published in the northeastern region of the US and *The Washington Post* between May 2002 and 2003, this paper will analyze how Muslim religious identity comes to mimic the inequality of race identity via essentialist images of Islam, government policies and experiences of discrimination. Benign markers of difference no longer exist in American society; instead, differences can be used to justify social inequality.