

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910972784903321
Autore	Brown Kathleen M. <1960->
Titolo	Foul bodies : cleanliness in early America / / Kathleen M. Brown
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2009
ISBN	9786612352072 9781282352070 1282352075 9780300160277 0300160275
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (464 p.)
Collana	Society and the sexes in the modern world
Disciplina	613/.40973
Soggetti	Hygiene - United States - History - 18th century Hygiene - United States - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 369-435) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Caring for the early modern body -- Skin -- Corruption -- Empire's new clothes -- Gentility -- Virtue -- Reimagining sickness and health -- Healing housework -- Redemption -- Laborers -- Immersion -- Mission.
Sommario/riassunto	A nation's standards of private cleanliness reveal much about its ideals of civilization, fears of disease, and expectations for public life, says Kathleen Brown in this unusual cultural history. Starting with the shake-up of European practices that coincided with Atlantic expansion, she traces attitudes toward "dirt" through the mid-nineteenth century, demonstrating that cleanliness-and the lack of it-had moral, religious, and often sexual implications. Brown contends that care of the body is not simply a private matter but an expression of cultural ideals that reflect the fundamental values of a society. The book explores early America's evolving perceptions of cleanliness, along the way analyzing the connections between changing public expectations for appearance and manners, and the backstage work of grooming, laundering, and housecleaning performed by women. Brown provides an intimate view of cleanliness practices and how such forces as urbanization, immigration, market conditions, and concerns about social mobility

influenced them. Broad in historical scope and imaginative in its insights, this book expands the topic of cleanliness to encompass much larger issues, including religion, health, gender, class, and race relations.

---