The British in India and the Americans in the Philippines had many things in mind for their imperial possessions. One was to 'civilize,' in their own terms, Asians whom they claimed were in serious need of refinement. And one of the ways in which the Anglo-Americans defined civilization was respect for the five senses. This talk will explore efforts by the British and Americans to make their imperial charges smell better, or less strong, in the belief that deodorization was an important step along the path to civilization and thus eventual self-government.

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