

# Effective Leadership in Japan: the Case of Shibusawa Eiichi, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

**50**  
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EAST ASIAN  
STUDIES  
CENTER

Friday, February 28  
Jennings Hall 001  
1735 Neil Ave., Columbus

Opening Remarks: 4:30-4:45  
Lecture/Discussion/Q&A: 4:45-6:45  
Reception: 6:45-7:30



## Gil Latz

Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs  
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The examination of lessons from the Meiji Era (1868-1912) that may have potential applicability to contemporary Japan can be explored by drawing attention to the role of prominent individuals in shaping national policy and in setting direction for a country in transition. The presentation reviews the remarkable career of Shibusawa Eiichi (1840-1931), a key leader in the modernization of Japan. I argue that the spiritual, social, and commercial ideas of Shibusawa Eiichi provide valuable insights into the qualities needed to lead Japan in the 21st century. Specifically, by introducing ideas related to individual empowerment and better governance, as well as venture philanthropy, I identify the elements that might comprise new international and regional development thinking that creatively address various challenges and opportunities facing Japan.



## Discussant

## David Welch

University Research Chair  
Professor, Department of Political Science  
University of Waterloo and Balsillie School of International Affairs



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