

THE EAST ASIA CENTER PRESENTS

A TALK BY

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***THE SHORT, STRANGE LIFE OF  
JAPAN'S VALUES DIPLOMACY***

EAST ASIA HAS EXPERIENCED A "SOFT POWER" BOOM, FROM "COOL JAPAN," TO THE "KOREA WAVE," TO CHINA'S "CHARM OFFENSIVE." BUT FOR JAPANESE LEADERS LIKE ABE SHINZÔ AND ASÔ TARÔ AND MANY IN THEIR RECENTLY DEFEATED LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO ASIA SHOULD BE IN THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY: A DIPLOMATIC STANCE DERIVED BY THOSE IN JAPAN ARGUING THAT IT WAS PART OF AMERICA'S FALSELY "UNIVERSAL" VALUES. THIS PAPER EXAMINES THE ODD PATH OF JAPAN'S KACHIKAN GAIKÔ ("VALUES DIPLOMACY") OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, CONNECTING IT BOTH TO POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY AND TO TELEOLOGICAL POSITIONS REGARDING JAPANESE LEADERSHIP.

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