

## EDITORIALS

# A leading Japanese politician espouses a 9/11 fantasy

Monday, March 8, 2010

YUKIHISA FUJITA is an influential member of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan. As chief of the DPJ's international department and head of the Research Committee on Foreign Affairs in the upper house of Japan's parliament, to which he was elected in 2007, he is a Brahmin in the foreign policy establishment of Washington's most important East Asian ally. He also seems to think that America's rendering of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, is a gigantic hoax.

Mr. Fujita's ideas about the attack on the World Trade Center, which he shared with us in a recent interview, are too bizarre, half-baked and intellectually bogus to merit serious discussion. He questions whether it was really the work of terrorists; suggests that shadowy forces with advance knowledge of the plot played the stock market to profit from it; peddles the fantastic idea that eight of the 19 hijackers are alive and well; and hints that controlled demolition rather than fire or debris may be a more likely explanation for at least the collapse of the building at 7 World Trade Center, which was adjacent to the twin towers.

As with almost any calamity whose scale and scope assume historic proportions, the events of Sept. 11 have spawned a thriving subculture of conspiracy theorists at home and abroad. The only thing novel about Mr. Fujita is that a man so susceptible to the imaginings of the lunatic fringe happens to occupy a notable position in the governing apparatus of a nation that boasts the world's second-largest economy.



Life. . .supplemented www.lifesupplemented.org

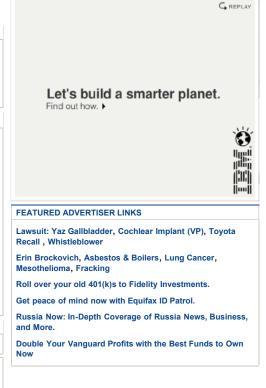
Mortgage Refinance 3.50% Mortgage Refinance: \$200,000 loan for \$791/mo. No SSN - FREE Quotes! Refinance.MortgagesBestRates.com

Buy a link here

We have no reason to believe that Mr. Fujita's views are widely shared in Japan; we suspect that they are not and that many Japanese would be embarrassed by them. His proposal two years ago that Tokyo undertake an independent investigation into the Sept. 11 attacks, in which 24 Japanese citizens died, went nowhere. Nonetheless, his views, rooted as they are in profound distrust of the United States, seem to reflect a strain of anti-American thought that runs through the DPJ and the government of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.



Mr. Hatoyama, elected last summer, has called for a more "mature" relationship with Washington and closer ties between Japan and China. Although he has reaffirmed longstanding doctrine that Japan's alliance with the United States remains the cornerstone of its security, his actions and





those of the DPJ-led government, raise questions about that commitment. It's a cliche but nonetheless true that the U.S.-Japan alliance has been a critical force for stability in East Asia for decades. That relationship, and its benefits for the region, will be severely tested if Mr. Hatoyama

tolerates elements of his own party as reckless and fact-averse as Mr. Fujita.

3 diggs digg it	13	50 tweets	More ways to share this Article	
			Reddit	Twitter
	Share	retweet	myspace	del.icio.us
			NewsTrust	Stumble It

## You might also like ...

- Onward with Obamacare, regardless Interesting You're such an awesomely bri. •

- Futenma commander defends Okinawa Marine base Karl Rove sets the record straight -- sort of Suspected gunman in Pentagon shooting acted alone, officials say

#### From Our Partners

- Are You Good at Giving Directions? Prove It. Liz Cheney's Despicable Campaign Against Lawyers Who Defend Gitmo Detainees The Smuttlest French Novel Ever Written Is Even Smuttier Than You Remember An Appreciation of Blogs Written by Military Wives Slate Readers Predicted Oscar Winners Better Than the Critics!

# Slate

SEARCH:

#### Most Viewed Opinions Articles

- Setting the (Rove) record straight ٠
- Would Reagan vote for Sarah Palin? On the road back, with a push The cost of growing up on porn
- » Top 35 Opinions Articles | Most Popular on washingtonpost.com

# © 2010 The Washington Post Company

NEWS | POLITICS | OPINIONS | BUSINESS | LOCAL | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | GOING OUT GUIDE

JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | RENTALS | CLASSIFIEDS

Search Archives go

washingtonpost.com : Contact Us | Work for Us | Advertisers | Site Map | Search Terms | Topics Index | Make Us Your Home Page | Newsletters | Mobile | RSS | Widgets The Washington Post: Subscribe | Home Delivery Service | Advertisers | PostPoints | e-Replica | Online Photo Store | The Washington Post Store | About The Post The Washington Post Company: Information and Other Post Co. Websites

© Copyright 1996-2010 The Washington Post Company | User Agreement and Privacy Policy | Rights and Permissions

Help | Contact Us