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Shinichi Kitaoka is President at International University of Japan (IUJ), Professor of Modern Japanese Politics and Diplomacy at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Executive Director of Research at International Institute for Policy Studies (IIPS) and Emeritus Professor of University of Tokyo. He studied at the University of Tokyo (Ph.D. 1976); taught at Rikkyo University (1976-97) and his alma mater (1997-2004, 2006-March, 2012); and served as Ambassador to the United Nations (2004-2006).

Kitaoka has published many books on Japan's military, diplomacy, party politics, and intellectuals and was honored by the Yoshida Shigeru Award (1986), Suntory Award for Liberal Arts (1987), and Yoshino Sakuzo Award (1995). He also contributes frequently to the major newspapers and magazines on Japan's security, foreign policy, and party politics and was given Yomiuri's Award for the Opinion Leader of the Year in 1992. He received the Medal with Purple Ribbon in November, 2011.

Kitaoka has been on the advisory panels for many foreign ministers and prime ministers and has participated in various second track talks such as Japan-China, Japan-Korea, Japan-Germany, Japan-India, and Japan-Singapore. Among his recent appointments are the Chairman of the Japanese scholars in Japan-China joint study of history (2006-2009), the Chairman of the Committee to investigate the so-called Secret Pacts in the Japan-US Security Treaty (2009-2010). He is currently the Acting Chair of the Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for National Security (February 2013 ~) and the Chair of The Advisory Panel on National Security and Defense Capabilities (September 2013 ~)

His major publications are:

Nihon rikugun to tairiku seisaku, 1906-18 (The Japanese Army and Japan's Continental Policy, 1906-18) (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1978).

Kiyosawa Kiyoshi (A Biography of Kiyoshi Kiyosawa), revised edition (Tokyo: Chuo Koron Shinsha, 2004).

Goto Shimpei (A Biography of Shimpei Goto: His Diplomacy and Vision) (Tokyo: Chuo Koron Sha, 1988).

Seito kara gunbu e: nihon no kindai vol.5 (From Party Politics to the Military: History of Modern Japan, vol. 5) (Tokyo: Chuo Koron Shinsha, 1999).

Kokuren no seiji rikigaku: nihon wa doko ni irunoka (Political Dynamics of the United Nations: Where Does Japan Stand?) (Tokyo: Chuo Koron Shinsha, 2007).

Jiminto: seikento no 38 nen (The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan: The 38 Years in Power) (Tokyo: Chukobunko, 2008).

Global player toshiten no Nippon (Japan as a global player) (Tokyo: NTT Publishing, 2010)

Dokuritsu jison: Fukuzawa Yukichi no chosen (Independence and Self-Respect: Fukuzawa Yukichi's Challenge) (Tokyo: Chukobunko, 2011)

Nihon seijishi: gaiko to kenryoku (A Political History of Modern Japan: Foreign Relations and Domestic Politics) (Tokyo: Yuhikaku, 2011)