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Source: Sakuma Shozan, an advocate of the opening of Japan whose philosophy is summarized by the motto he made famous: "Eastern ethics and Western science." *Reflections on My Errors*, 1855.

In the summer of Kaei 7, the fourth month [May, 1854], I, because of an incident, went down into prison. During my seven months of imprisonment, I pondered over my errors, and, as a result, there were things that I should have liked to say concerning them. However, brush and ink-stone were forbidden in the prison, and I was therefore unable to keep a manuscript. Over that long period, then, I forgot much. Now that I have come out, I shall record what I remember, deposit the record in a cloth box, and bequeath it to my descendants. As for publicizing what I have to say, I dare do no such thing...

28. The principle requisite of national defense is that it prevents the foreign barbarians from holding us in contempt. The existing coastal defense installations all lack method; the pieces of artillery that have been set up are improperly made; and the officials who negotiate with the foreigners are mediocrities who have no understanding of warfare. The situation being such, even though we wish to avoid incurring the scorn of the barbarians, how, in fact, can we do so?...
35. Mathematics is the basis for all learning. In the Western world after this science was discovered military tactics advanced greatly, far outstripping that of former times. This development accords with the statement that "one advanced from basic studies to higher learning." In the *Art of War* of Sunzi, the statement about "estimation, determination of quantity, calculation, judgment, and victory" has reference to mathematics. However, since Sunzi's time neither we nor the Chinese have ceased to read, study, and memorize his teachings, and our art of war remains exactly as it was then. It consequently cannot be compared with that of the West. There is no reason for this other than that we have not devoted ourselves to basic studies. At the present time, if we wish really to complete our military preparations, we must develop this branch of study...
47. In order to master the barbarians there is nothing so effective as to ascertain in the beginning conditions among them. To do this, there is no better first step than to be familiar with barbarian tongues. Thus, learning a barbarian language is not only a step toward knowing the barbarians, but also the groundwork for mastering them...

1. Does Sakuma's status as a former prisoner have any bearing on his "point of view"? Is there a connection?

2. According to Sakuma, what major problems existed in Japan under the Tokugawa by the 1850's? What deficiencies were there in Japan's philosophy and/or actions?

3. Why was "mathematics" so important?

4. Based on your knowledge of Meiji Era Japan, what reforms were, or were not made and instituted, to correct the detrimental features of Japanese society?