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Sakamoto
Ryoma

型破りな発想で日本を変えた幕末の志士

さかもとりょうま
坂本龍馬 (1835~1867年)

Sakamoto Ryoma was a samurai patriot at the end
of the Edo period.

He developed an interest in politics when the
Sonno Joi movement was on the rise due to the
appearance of Commodore Perry from the U.S.

Commodore Perry came to Japan in an immense
battleship, which had a huge impact on the entire
nation.

Ryoma exchanged ideas with many people who
were in politics. He thought about Japan's future on
a very large scale, a scale which has an international

perspective and which was not confined to the
existing framework.

In 1865, with the assistance of Satsuma Tei,
Ryoma established a corporation called "Kameyama
Shachu" (later "Kaientai") in Nagasaki, which was
the first corporation in Japan. Kameyama Shachu

contacted the Choshu clan which was banned from
trading weapons by the shogunate, and Ryoma

secretly resold weapons to the Choshu under
Satsuma's name. By this strategy, the two rivals,
who had been confrontational at that time, gradually

reconciled and this led to the formation of a long
alliance that is believed to have been mediated by
Ryoma.

In 1867, Ryoma submitted a proposal called "Senchu
Hassaku" to Goto Shojiro in Tosa. It was a draft of the