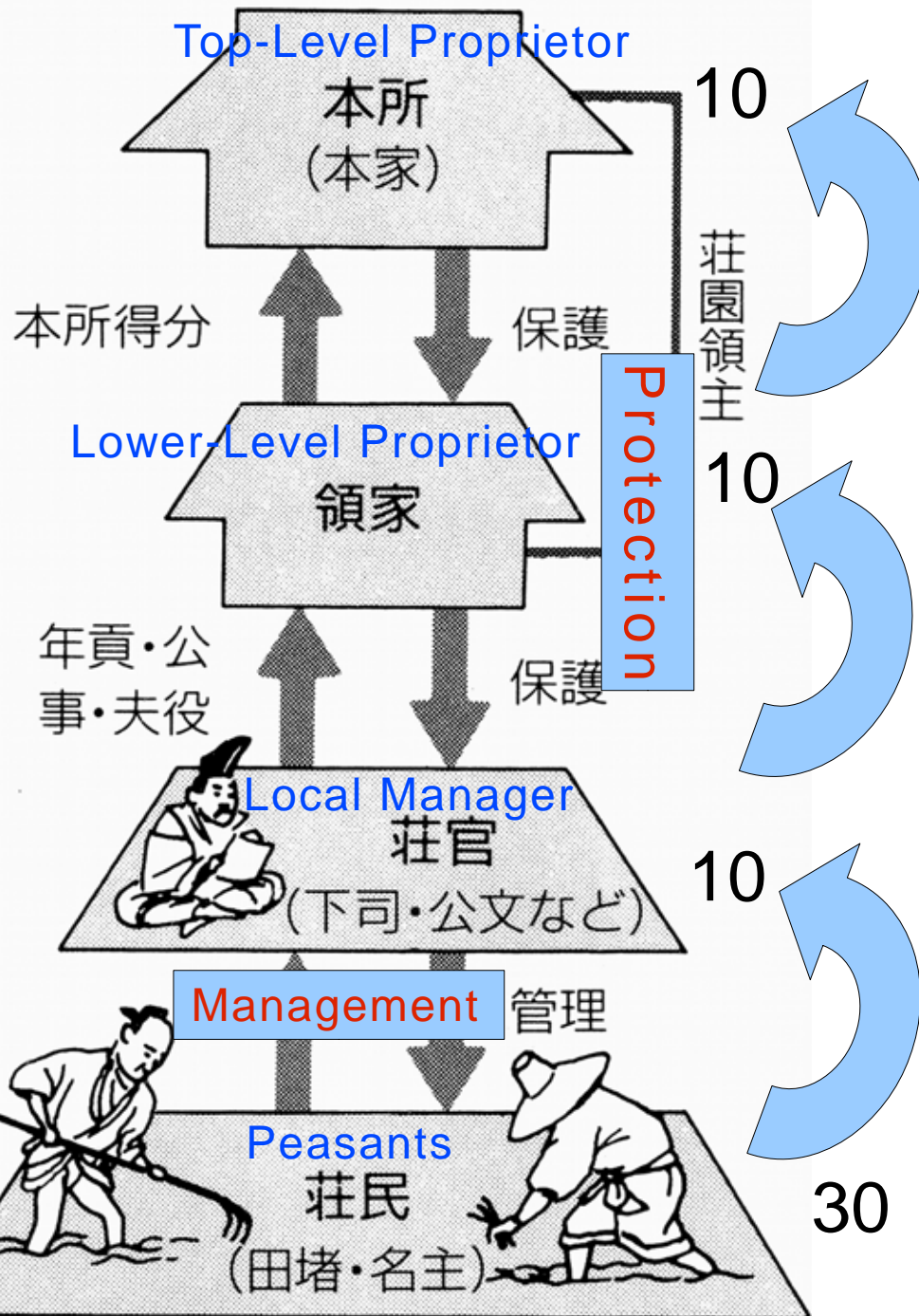


② 寄進地系荘園の機構 Commendation-Created *Shōen* Structure



Why “commend” land to a temple or local warrior? The main reason was to shelter reclaimed land from the interference of local officials who constantly tried to tax it.

However, under some circumstances even ordinary land could be “commended” to a *shōen* if the right political connections were in place. The incentive at the ground level would be that rents would be lower than taxes.

Moreover, in the 11th century the government experienced financial difficulties. To economize, it cut official salaries, but it made *shōen* creation relatively easy, was willing to shelter *shōen* from government officials, and encouraged nobles to rely on *shōen* as their main source of income.