

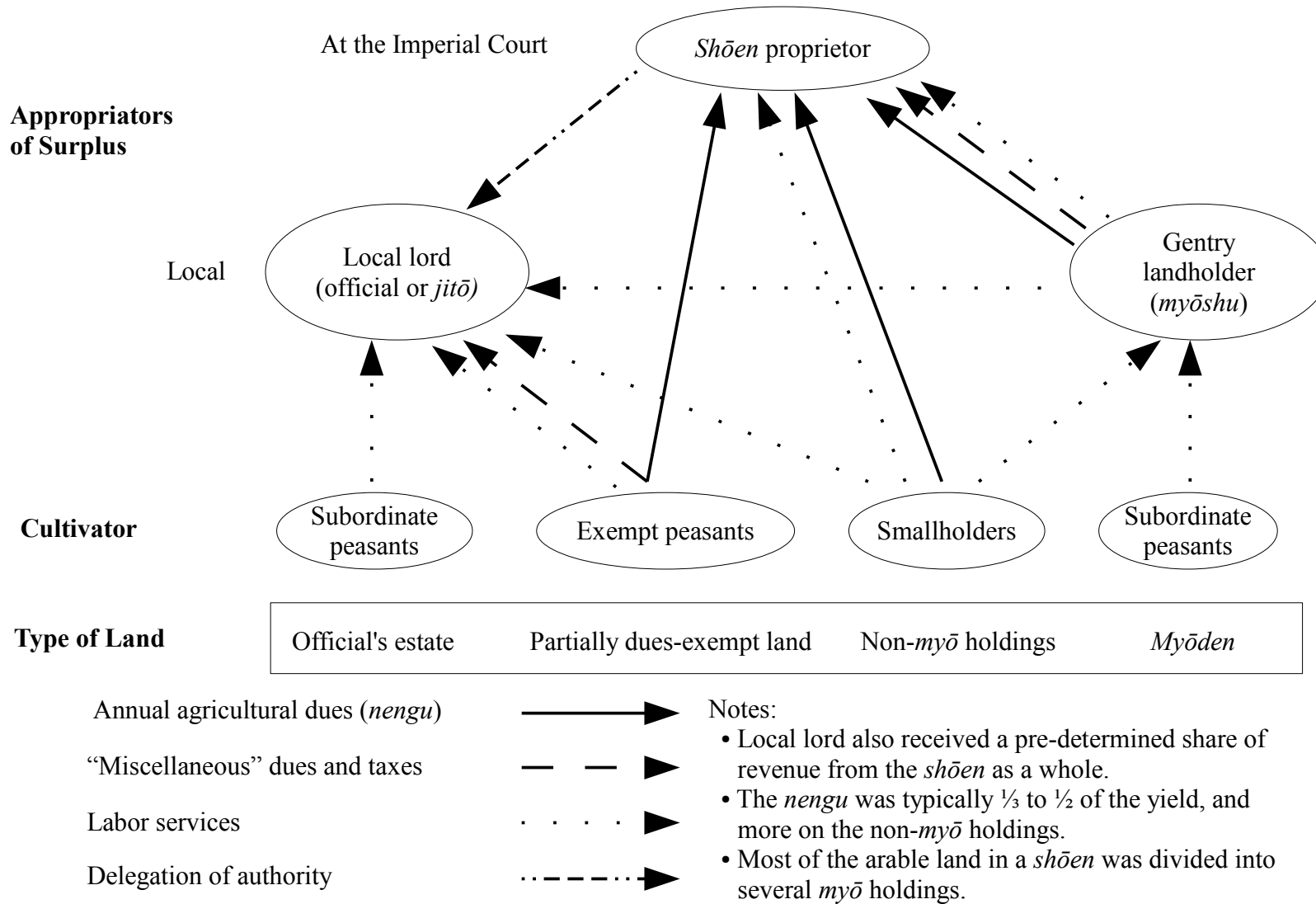
Table 1: Strata of Elites in Pre-Tokugawa Japan

Elite group	Definition	Aliases
Regional lords	In addition to directly controlling territory, set above other lords who owe allegiance as vassals. Greater regional lords could include smaller-scale regional lords among their vassals.	Military governors (<i>shugo</i>) and many of their provincial and district-level deputies, “provincial men” (<i>kokujin</i>), <i>daimyo</i> and many of their most substantial vassals.
Local lords	Either independently or through appointment as official or enfeoffment, exerted political power over a territory, including the authority to make or enforce laws, render judicial decisions, and levy or collect taxes and dues.	<i>Shōen</i> officials (<i>shōkan</i>), stewards (<i>jitō</i>), lower-level samurai vassals, rural samurai (<i>jizamurai</i>).
Gentry	Held land and cultivated it with the labor of servants, subordinate peasant households, and tenants.	<i>Jizamurai</i> , <i>myōshu</i> , <i>gōnō</i> , local notables, wealthy peasants.

Table 2: The Reconfigured Lordly Class of the Tokugawa Era

Shogun	Hegemonic overlord, controlling territories with an assessed productivity of over 4 million <i>koku</i> plus an additional 2.6 million held by direct samurai vassals, compared to 1.2 million <i>koku</i> , including samurai fiefs, held by the largest single daimyo. The shogun had the power to transfer or expropriate any lord and regulated their relations with each other.
Daimyo	Magnate lords controlling domains assessed at 10,000 <i>koku</i> or more. Formally subordinated to the shogun but continued to possess substantial political autonomy in their own domains and authority over their vassals. Required to keep households in the shogunate's capital of Edo, where they lived every other year and their wives and children stayed full time.
Samurai	Lords of fiefs of less than 10,000 <i>koku</i> . Vassals of the shogun or of daimyo pulled into their lieges' castle towns, they retained much less independent political authority, and were subject to much stricter regulation, than the daimyo. The trend in the era was for the domain administration to take over the regulation and taxation of samurai fiefs, often even formally converting fiefs of specific plots of land into hereditary stipends paid out the domain's general tax revenue.
Gentry	Disarmed in the unification and formally labeled "cultivators" in cadastral surveys but retained much of their economic and social power within villages. Named as local officials by lords, responsible for maintaining order and ensuring the payment of taxes. Occasionally kept or, more often, regained in the latter half of the era certain symbols of samurai status, such as the right to have a surname or bear a sword.

Figure 1: The Organization of Property and Obligations on a Typical *Shōen*



Source: Nagahara 1990b