



## Summary :

Manuel Maurozomes' rebellion broke out after Constantinople fell to the Latins (April 1204). Maurozomes, with the military support of the Sultanate of Ikonion, attempted to establish an independent rule in the region of Phrygia. In February/March 1206 his control over the areas of Laodikeia and Chonai was recognised by the emperor of Nicaea, Theodore I Laskaris.

## Date

1204-1206

## Geographical Location

Phrygia

## 1. Historical framework

The rebellion of [Manuel Maurozomes](#) was staged as soon as the Latin crusaders captured Constantinople for a second time (April 13, [1204](#)) during the [Fourth Crusade](#), and established Latin administration. Because the [Latin rule](#) was unwelcome to the [citizens](#) some members of the [aristocracy](#) escaped to free regions and created new states supported by the local populations. [Theodore I Laskaris](#), the son-in-law of Alexios III Angelus (1195-1203), was at the time struggling to create in [Asia Minor](#) a new state in the area of [Nicaea](#), aiming to continue the Byzantine Empire. As a result of the political instability in the free regions of the empire, several independent states were formed in the Byzantine provinces of Asia Minor. [Theodore Mangaphas](#) had imposed himself upon [Philadelphia](#) as an independent ruler, [Sabas Asidenos](#) in [Samson](#), near [Miletus](#), while in the same period Manuel Maurozomes was attempting to establish an independent rule in the region of [Phrygia](#). The rebellion of the latter was also favoured by the restoration of Kaykhusraw I (1192-1196, 1204/5-1211) to the throne of the Sultanate of Ikonion. Manuel, who was a relative of the Seljuk sultan, found a loyal ally in his attempt to impose himself as an independent ruler in the area.

## 2. Manuel Maurozomes' rebellion

After Constantinople fell to the Latins (April 1204), Manuel Maurozomes (who had escaped from the city shortly before the fall) fled to Asia Minor, where he was arrested by the Byzantines of Nicaea. Maurozomes managed to get away and sought shelter in his son-in-law, Kaykhusraw I, who had just been restored to the throne of the [sultanate of Ikonion](#).<sup>1</sup> With his support the rebel tried to establish an independent rule in the region of Phrygia and the Meander River. In 1204/5, helped by [Türkmen](#) nomads and Seljuk mercenaries of the sultan, Maurozomes looted and raided the valley of Meander, aiming to consolidate his position in Phrygia.

Maurozomes with his troops was a serious threat to Emperor Theodore I, who wanted to have absolute control over the Phrygian provinces, thus eliminating a possible attack from the Sultanate of [Ikonion](#). In early 1205 Laskaris, who had imposed himself on [Bithynia](#), turned against the revolter of Phrygia. At first he managed to restrict his activities, while towards the end of the same year he had to confront him once again. In a battle fought somewhere in Phrygia, the mercenaries of Maurozomes were dispersed, the leading [beys](#) were arrested and Maurozomes fled in disorder.<sup>2</sup> However, in February/March 1206, Theodore I, fearing for a Seljuk attack and having to deal with the invasion of [David Komnenos](#) (the brother of [Alexios I Grand Komnenos](#), emperor of [Trebizond](#)) in [Paphlagonia](#), the rebellions of minor local rulers as well as the constant attacks of the Latins of Constantinople against the provinces of western Asia Minor, was forced to come to terms with the Seljuk sultan. As part of that agreement, Laskaris recognised the independence of Maurozomes and gave him the command of the cities of [Laodikeia](#) and [Chonai](#) near [Hierapolis](#). However, according to the conditions of the agreement, Manuel would be subjected to the sultan of Ikonion.<sup>3</sup> The two cities remained under Maurozomes until his death, when they were incorporated into the Seljuk possessions.<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Consequences

Manuel Maurozomes rebelled when Constantinople was captured by the Latins and his movement became one of the most serious



concerns of the new emperor of Nicaea, Theodore I Laskaris. As it happened with the rest of the separationist movements of the time, Maurozomes' rebellion caused problems for Theodore I in his attempt to establish a powerful state in NW Asia Minor. Things changed in the years of [John III Vatatzes](#), when the latter adopted strict measures in order to reinforce the state power and control court aristocracy and provincial rulers, two of the major factors responsible for the emergence of separationist movements.

1. The throne of Kaykhusraw I was usurped in 1196 by his brother, Rukn ad-Din Suleiman Shah. See Σαββίδης, Α., *Βυζαντινά στασιαστικά και αυτονομιστικά κινήματα στα Δωδεκάνησα και τη Μικρά Ασία, 1189-1240 μ.Χ.: Συμβολή στη μελέτη της υστεροβυζαντινής προσωπογραφίας και τοπογραφίας την εποχή των Αγγέλων, των Λασκαρίδων της Νίκαιας και των Μεγαλοκομνηνών του Πόντου* (Athens 1987), p. 232.
2. Van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), *Nicetae Choniatae Historia* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 11, Berlin – New York 1975), p. 626.47-73.
3. In this capacity Manuel Maurozomes took part in the campaign of the Seljuks of Ikonion against Armenia Minor in 1215.
4. According to Langdon, J., *Byzantium's last imperial offensive in Asia Minor. The documentary evidence for and hagiographical lore about John III Ducas Vatatzes crusade against the Turks, 1222 or 1225 to 1231* (New York 1992), p. 49, n. 22, the city of Laodikeia came temporarily under the rule of John III Vatatzes around 1226/7.

#### Bibliography :

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	<b>Νικήτας Χωνιάτης</b> , <i>Χρονική Διήγησις</i> , van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), <i>Nicetae Choniatae Historia</i> , Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 11, Berlin – New York 1975
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	<b>Langdon J.S.</b> , <i>Byzantium's last imperial offensive in Asia Minor. The Documentary Evidence for and Hagiographical Lore about John III Ducas Vatatzes' Crusade against the Turks, 1222 or 1225 to 1231</i> , New York 1992, Number Hellenism: Ancient, Mediaeval, Modern, 7
	<b>Βρυώνης Σ.</b> , <i>Η παρακμή του μεσαιωνικού ελληνισμού στη Μικρά Ασία και η διαδικασία του εξισλαμισμού</i> , MIET, Αθήνα 1996, Γαλαταριώτου, Κ. (μτφρ.)
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	<b>Kazhdan A.</b> , "Maurozomes", Kazhdan, A. (ed.), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium</i> 2, New York 1991, 1319-1320
	<b>Νικήτας Χωνιάτης</b> , <i>Λόγοι και Επιστολαί</i> , van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), <i>Nicetae Choniatae Orationes et Epistulae</i> , Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 3, Berlin – New York 1972



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## Webliography :

Kaykhusraw I - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaykhusraw\\_I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaykhusraw_I)

## Glossary :

bey

The title of bey means actually "chieftain," and was traditionally applied to leaders of Turkish tribal groups, in the Ottoman Empire also to administration or military officials. The regions or provinces where beys ruled or which they administered by them were called beylik.

## Sources

Van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), *Nicetae Choniatae Historia* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 11, Berlin – New York 1975), p. 626.47-73.

Van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), *Nicetae Choniatae Orationes et Epistulae* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 3, Berlin – New York 1972), pp. 136.33-137.13.

## Quotations

### Byzantine historian Niketas Choniates describes the clash of the nicaean state against Manuel Maurozomes:

Ὁ μὲν γὰρ Μαυροζώμης Μανουὴλ τὸν Καίχοσρόην ὑποδύς, οὐ πάνυ πρὸ πολλοῦ τῆ σφετέρᾳ θυγατρὶ συναφθέντα καὶ τῆς Ἱκονιαρχίας αὐθις λαβόμενον, ἧς εἶχε πρότερον ἐκπεσών, πάντα ἦν μηχανώμενος, εἴ πως αὐτοῦ συναιρομένου τοῦ βασιλείου τύχη ὀνόματος, καὶ τὴν ὄσσην ποτίζει Μαϊάνδρος ἐπιών μετὰ Τούρκων ἔφθειρέ τε καὶ ἔκειρεν. Ὁ δὲ Λάσκαρις Θεόδωρος, ὡς γένει διαπρεπέστατος καὶ κήδει βασιλείῳ περιδοξος, ἀποκρουσάμενος ἐκείνον τὸ ἐξέρυθρον πέδιλον ὑποδύεται καὶ βασιλεὺς Ῥωμαίων ὑφ' ὅλων τῶν ἔρων ἀναγορεύεται πόλεων. Ὁ δ' ἐκ Κομνηνῶν Δαυὶδ στρατολογήσας Παφλαγόνας καὶ οἱ τὴν Ποντικὴν οἰκοῦσιν Ἡράκλειαν καὶ μοῖραν μισθωσάμενος Ἰβήρων τῶν πινόντων τοῦ Φάσιδος κώμας καὶ πόλεις ὑπεποιεῖτο καὶ τὸν οἰκείον μεγαλύνων κασίγητον, ᾧ ἡ κλησις Ἀλέξιος, πρόδρομος ἐκείνου καὶ προκήρυξ ἐγένετο. Ὁ δὲ ἔμελλεν αἰεὶ χρονίζων ἐν τοῖς τῆς Τραπεζούντος μέρεσι καὶ παροικιακὸς ἐδείκνυτο Ὑλας, φωνούμενος καὶ μὴ ὀπτανόμενος. Ἐπει δὲ καὶ τῆ Νικομήδους ὁ Δαυὶδ οὗτος προσεπέλασε διὰ τινος αὐτῷ στρατηγούντος μείρακος, Συναδηνοῦ τὴν ἐπίκλησιν, στρατεύμα ξυναγείρας ὁ Λάσκαρις κατ' αὐτοῦ ἔπεισι, διὰ μὲν τῆς τετριμμένης καὶ λείας ἔμφασιν δοὺς πορεύεσθαι, ἐκπεριελθὼν δὲ τραχείαν ἄλλην καὶ δύσβατον καὶ προσπεσῶν ἀφώρατος τῷ Συναδηνῷ. ὅθεν καταστρατηγήσας οὕτω τὸν νεανίαν αὐτόν τε συνείληφε καὶ τὸ ἐκείνου στρατεύμα διεσκέδασε καὶ τὸν Δαυὶδ μὴ περαιτέρω προῖέναι τῆς Ποντικῆς Ἡρακλείας παρέπεισε. Μετ' οὐ πολὺ δὲ καὶ τῷ Μαυροζώμῃ συμπλακεῖς φυγάδα δείκνυσι τοῦτον.

Van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), *Nicetae Choniatae Historia* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 11, Berlin – New York 1975), p. 626.47-73.

### A panegyric of Niketas Choniates to Theodore I Lascaris, where he refers to his struggle against Murozomes as well:

Ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς θερμῆς ταυτησὶ νίκῃς ἐπὶ τὸν νέον ὠρηκῶς Ἀχιτόφελ ὅσα καὶ παιδίων ἐπὶ ψάμμου ἀθύρματα τὰ τούτου διαλύεις συστρέμματα· ὁ μὲν γὰρ κατὰ γένος ἡμῖν συναπτόμενος, ταῖς δὲ γνώμαις ἀλλοεθῆς τῆς ἑαυτοῦ πατρίδος ἀκρατῆς πολέμιος καὶ ὢν καὶ δεικνύμενος, ᾧετο φρεναπατάμενος, ὁ ἐπίρρητος καὶ πρὸς ὀφέωδῃ πανουργίαν ἠκονημένος, ἀρχὴν ἑαυτῷ μνηστεύσασθαι καὶ χωρῶν καὶ πόλεων Ῥωμαϊκῶν ἐπιβήτωρ ὀφθήσεσθαι, εἰ τῷ κηδεστῇ Πέρσῃ συνερίθω χρήσεται καὶ χεῖρα συχὴν ἐκείθεν λήψεται. ἀμέλει καὶ μετὰ δυνάμεων Περσικῶν ἐπιών ὁ κατὰ μόνων τῶν οἰκείων εἰδώς ἀνδρίζεσθαι ἔκειρε τὸ μὴ συμφοροῦν ὁμόγλωττον ὡς ἀλλόφυλον· σὺ δ' εἰς ἀκοὴν ὠτίου ταυτὶ δεξάμενος τῷ τολμητῇ τῶν ἀθεμίτων ἐξ ἀντιστάσεως αὐτίκα φανείς ὡσεὶ καὶ κολοῖον ξενόπτερον μάλα εὐχερῶς ἀπελήλακας· τῶν δὲ σὺν ἐκείνῳ πολεμίων οὐς μὲν ἐκκεντήσας εἰς ὕπνον κατεύναςας χάλκεον, οὐς δὲ ποσὶ καὶ ἵπποις ποδώκεσι πρῖασθαι τὴν σωτηρίαν ἠνάγκασας, οὐς δὲ συλλαβὼν, καὶ τούτων, ὅσοι μὲν τὸ γένος πολλοί, τὸν δὲ πλοῦτον βαθεῖς μηδὲ τᾶλλα χαμαίζηλοι, δεσμοῖς ἕως τραχήλου ὑπέβαλες.



Van Dieten, J.A. (ed.), *Nicetae Choniatae Orationes et Epistulae* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 3, Berlin – New York 1972), pp. 136.33-137.13.

## Chronological Table

**ca. summer 1204:** Manuel Maurozomes establishes an independent rule in the region of Phrygia and the Meander river.

**1205:** The forces of Manuel Maurozomes raid the valley of the Meander.

**1205/6:** Manuel Maurozomes is defeated by the forces of the emperor of Nicaea, Theodore I Laskaris.

**February/March 1206:** Theodore I Laskaris cedes the areas of Laodikeia and Chonai to Manuel Maurozomes, who becomes a vassal to the Seljuks of Ikonion.