ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ

Συγγραφή : *Cheynet Jean-Claude*
Μετάφραση : *Ανδριοπούλου Βέρα*
Για παραπομπή : *Cheynet Jean-Claude , "Administrative system in byzantine Asia Minor", Εγκυκλοπαίδεια Μείζονος Ελληνισμού, Μ. Ασία*
URL: <http://www.ehw.gr/l.aspx?id=12539>

Περίληψη :

The Byzantine administration was adapting constantly to the circumstances in Asia, refuting the reputation of immobility of the Byzantine Empire. The system of *themes* provided the basis of the provincial administration for the period 700 – 1204. Ruled by a powerful *strategos*, a *theme* incorporated all the fiscal and judiciary services required for the sovereign to remain connected to his eastern subjects. Asia Minor provided the human and material resources necessary for the survival of the Empire. From the 10th century onward, and after a century of dominance of the judges, there were some changes in the system, now adapted to the organisation of the army in *tagmata*, while the authority passed in the hands of the *doukai*. After the Turkish invasions, the Komnenoi re-established the administrative system based on the *tagmata* and the service of *oikeiaka* as regards taxation, thus restoring prosperity to Asia Minor.

Χρονολόγηση

4th - 15th century

Γεωγραφικός εντοπισμός

Asia Minor

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1. Introduction

1.1. Early Byzantine period

Since the reform of Diocletian, the Byzantine Asia Minor was divided into several dioceses, pertaining to the praetorian prefecture of Oriens. To the west was the diocese of Asiana, while to the north and east was the diocese of Pontica, its frontiers covering the Hellespont, Phrygia, Pisidia, Lycaonia in Asia, Bithynia in Galatia and Cappadocia in the Pontos. Finally, the regions of Isauria and Cilicia were included in the diocese of Oriens. The metropolitan sees and bishoprics of Asia and the Pontos were attached to the Patriarchate of Constantinople, after the latter was established, while the provinces within the diocese of Oriens were dependent from the Patriarchate of Antioch.

2. The origins of the themes and their initial nature

The Arab invasions rapidly brought about profound military reforms, but civil administration remained unchanged at least until the 8th century. The issue of the apparition of the themes remains controversial, even though scholars appear to have reached a certain consensus; the theory that Heraclius reformed the army and created the themes has now been abandoned. The armies that withdrew from the lost eastern provinces or remained in their place lost were installed in groups of provinces still run by governors, mentioned in the sources under the title of archontes.

The question is, at what time did the theme of Anatolikon stop being a body of troops and began to designate the administrative region from which the soldiers were being recruited. The existence of strategoi (generals) of Anatolikon does not constitute proof for the existence of a theme as an administrative unit, since the *strategoi* were initially associated with the soldiers and not the administration of the region.

There is little evidence that contributes to understanding the origins and establishment of the system of the themes. The *jussio* of Justinian II (687) provides a list of active military units on that date,[1] reflecting the dowgrading of Africa and the creation of the theme of the Karavesianoi, the only fleet available to the Empire that recruited sailors mainly from Asia Minor and the southern Balkans. As there is no indication that the Karavesianoi have had a territorial basis, we can not conclude that other similar units mentioned are the forerunners of the future regional themes. The evidence suggests that the theme administration is not yet existent at the time, since the exarchates do not evolve into themes, but seem to disappear; that of Africa dissolves shortly after the final fall of Carthage in 698 and that of Ravenna after the occupation of the city by the Lombards in 751.

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Substantial evidence suggests that in the mid-8th century, the themes constitute the basis of the middle byzantine administration system. At that time the seals of the kommerkiarioi cease to mention the traditional provinces, referring only to the themes. The designation «kommerkion of a *strategia*» (the administrative division under a *strategos*), as in the case of the *kommerkion* of the *strategia* of the Thrakesion from a seal dated in 740/741 and another dated in 744/745,[2] also disappears. Also during this period, Constantine V divided the existing themes, creating several new ones, while restoring an army organised in *tagmata*; thus, the thematic armies appeared to be considered regional armies at that time.

3. Chronology of the apparition of themes in Asia Minor

The two original themes were those of Anatolikon and Armeniakon. This attribute offered their *strategoi* a certain precedence over the *strategoi* of the other themes, until the 10th century. The theme of Opsikion, formed at the same time, had a different structure, since it comprised elite troops and was ruled by a comes not a *strategos*. Initially the *comes* often also commanded the Thracian army, charged with the defence of the capital. The fourth theme of Asia Minor, that of the Thrakesion, was named after the Thracesian army. The date of its formation has been disputed. The first *strategos* attested in narrative sources was Sisinnios,[3] who fought alongside Constantine V in his war against his brother-in-law Artabasdos, since 742. In several instances, the troops of Thrace have been moved, as in 645 when the Byzantines attempted to no avail to re-conquer Egypt from the Arabs; the latter had just conquered the region, which was quickly recovered by the Byzantines. In 687 a reference to the *exercitus Tracisianus* also applies to Thrace. In 711 a tourmarchof the Thrakesion is mentioned.[4] Soldiers were stationed to the western Asia Minor from 687 until 711 in order to face the rising threat of a maritime or terrestrial Arab attack against Constantinople.

The last large theme to be created was the maritime theme of Kibyrrhaiotai in the south-eastern Asia Minor. The first mention of its *strategos* is in 732, but it is also known that since 698 the Kibyrraioton was under the authority of a droungarios, who was possibly dependent from the *strategos* of the Karavisianoi.[5] Its capital was Attaleia, from where the fleet directed its attacks towards the Arabs.

By the mid-8th century, the large themes had been established, subdivided into tourmes. However, the number of themes constantly increased for two main reasons: Firstly, as a means to limit the power of the *strategoi* of the larger themes, who were powerful enough to usurp the throne. There are several examples of *strategoi* of Anatolikon, who managed to become emperors: Leontios, Leo III, Leo V. Secondly, it helped the organisation of the frontier regions of the empire, especially after the recovery of lost territories in the East from the second half of the 9th century onward. The *strategoi* of the themes were integrated into court hierarchy, according to the order in which their themes were created.

The first large-scale reorganisation of the *themes* took place after the civil war that failed to dethrone Constantine V. The emperor managed to weaken the Opsikion them, one of his main adversaries, situated very close to Constantinople, by creating the theme of Boukellarion. Later he detached another part that formed the theme of Optimaton. This was ruled by a domestikos and was completely demilitarised in the 10th century; it was the theme providing the empire with mules and travelling animals. The chronology of creation of thosethemes is not known. Usually the first reference to a *strategos* provides us with a date *ante quem*. Before the mid-9th century, several themes were created, such as that of Cappadocia, detached from the Anatolikon, that of Paphlagonia, created from part of Armeniakon, and those of Chaldia and Aegean, created from parts of Thrakesion and Opsikion; finally, the themes of Coloneia, Sebasteia, Seleukeia, Lykandos, Samos were in place before the death of Leo VI (911).

After the recovery of the eastern territories, from Euphrates to Caucasus, several new themes were created; their full list was included in the *Taktikon Escorial*, during the reign of John I Tzimiskes. These themes differed greatly from the older ones, especially in size; some were only constituted by an important fortress and its environs. In order to distinguish the old themes from the new ones, the Byzantines used the terms ‘Roman themes’ and ‘Armenian themes’ – since they were protected by Armenian armies – respectively. Due to their small size, the Armenian themes did not have individual administrations, but they were governed collectively. Several seals of krites (judges) of the Armenian themes survive today.[6]

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4. The evolution of the administration in the Eastern themes

The theme was governed by a *strategos*, who was appointed by the emperor himself. The *strategos* had full military power, while, after the administrational provinces disappeared, he assumed the power of the officers in charge of the state finances and justice. Therefore, the *strategos* was the representative of the emperor in the theme. Members of the local aristocracy, such as the families of Mosele, Maleinos, Phokas, Kourkouas, Skleros, Doukas, Argyros, usually obtained the office of *strategos* in the most coveted themes like the Anatolikon, Armeniakon, Cappadocia, Charsianou.

Today we know how the large themes were organised: three or four tourmarchs, also called *merarchoi*, were second in command after the *strategos*. The *strategos* was also being assisted by a komes tes kortes and a *domestikos*; the latter was in charge of the permanent guard of the theme. The tourmarch were in charge of the droungarioi, who, in turn, commanded the *comites*; their envoys were called mandatores. Some themes, such as the Mardaïton in Attaleia, also had a fleet, under the command of a katepano.

Not much is known about the administration before the *strategoi*, apart from the information that we possess on the *kommerkiarioi*, who held the monopoly on silk trade. Their office evolved, as observed in their seals that increased in number from the second half of the 7th century onward. The obverse depicts the emperor, while on the reverse the indiction was written until the first half of the 9th century. N. Oikonomides has observed that the production of silk was very popular in Asia Minor, compared to other areas. This is an interesting observation, in light of the economic situation in Asia Minor, after centuries of war, even though it appears that, at the time, silk had substituted the then rare gold coinage. M. Hendy, followed by other historians, has suggested that with the devaluation of currency and, consequently, the augmentation of taxes, the *kommerkiarioi*, who frequented the court and often held high offices, managed to hoard foods that they, in turn, distributed to the soldiers of the *themes*. N. Oikonomides rightly responds that no source links the *kommerkiarioi* to the army.[7] The present state of research on that issue does not provide a satisfactory theory that links the presence of that particular type of *kommerkiarios* to the provisioning of the army. What is more, that type of *kommerkiarios* ceased to exist at the same time as the revaluation of the currency by Constantine V; it also preceded the protonotarioi of the theme, who assumed that responsibility after the 9th century. The *kommerkiarioi* of the cities or of themes, such as that of Attaleia, Nicaea or Chaldia, where officials, who collected a 10% tax from all trading activities, while the *protonotarioi* were under orders from the capital to make the necessary arrangements for the provisioning of the army.

The political administration was also primarily economic in nature. Taxes were collected by the *dioiketes* (governors), who belonged to the jurisdiction of the logothesion tou genikou. Their area of jurisdiction initially corresponded to the maps of the old provinces, but gradually it was adapted to the structure of the themes,which consisted of several *dioikeseis*. There are also a few mid-7th century reports that mention a governor of all the eastern provinces. Constantinople also dispatched inventory-takers (anagrapheis), revisers of the land register and chartoularioi, who played a military role and were under the command of the logothetes*ton stratiotikon* (of the army). During the 10th century, the judges increased in significance and were more autonomous than the *strategoi*, who expressed their displeasure for the decreasing power over their own soldiers.

The ecclesiastical administration was more stable. Isauria, isolated from Antioch due to Arab conquests, was reattached to the Patriarch of Constantinople until the recapture of Antioch in 969. The notitiae episcopatuum and seals indicate that a certain number of bishoprics, now corresponding to mere villages, belonged to the jurisdiction of the nearest city. New bishoprics, some even being promoted to metropolitan sees, were created according to demographic conditions. [8]

5. The reforms of 10th – 11th centuries

There were great reforms in Asia Minor from the reign of Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969) until the reign of Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118). After a remarkable expansion towards the west, the Turks almost completely swept the Byzantine presence in Asia Minor; that was until Alexios I recovered the eastern territories and part of the coasts in the north and south.

During that period of expansion, the small frontier themes that did not have sufficient military administration, were reorganised in

doukata (duchies) covering the entire eastern border, under the command of a dux or a *katepano*: *doukaton* of Antioch, Edessa, Mesopotamia, Iberia and Great Armenia. The central themes were demilitarised, while the judge became the main official of the theme. After the recovery of the territories, the importance of state finances and of the throne had significantly increased. The area of Melitine, initially a curatorium, later evolved into a theme. Basil Lakapenos, regent of the underage Basil II, commanded the imperial territories (episkepseis) in Cilicia. Any rebel from Asia Minor had his property and fortune confiscated and added to the *episkepseis*, ruled by procuratores(*pronoetai* or *episkeptitai*[9]); these *procuratores* were connected to important offices in the capital, such as the sekreton *of oikeiakon* that increased in importance under Basil II or that of charitable establishments, such as the monastery of Mangana. These fiscal and judicial offices were a great source of profit; thus they attracted primarily members of prominent Constantinopolitan families: among the names of the judges or governors in the eastern themes there are those of Xeros, Serblias, Promoundenos, Kataphloros, Chrysoberges…

6. The period of the Komnenoi and the Angeloi

The Turkish conquest greatly reshaped Asia Minor. The most isolated areas, such as Trebizond, Attaleia, some areas in Bithynia, retained the Byzantine administration system; however, the great eastern *themes* disappeared completely. The theme system never recovered, even after the reconquest of territories in 1097. The large eastern themes were replaced gradually by smaller ones, under the command of a doukas; these were centred around a fortress, aiming at dealing with the Turkish threats, and could only be found in the east. Only during the reign of John II Komnenos and Manuel – who consistently strived to ensure the inhabitants' safety – can we detect a clearer administrational system. The main theme was that of Thrakesion; its capital, Philadelphia, was a fortress looking toward the Turks. The themes Opsikiou, Optimaton, Boukellarion, Paphlagonia and Chaldia were also reconstructed, even though a large part of their regions had been lost. Two new themes also appeared. Mylasa-Melanoudion, named after its two main cities, is first mentioned in 1143. It incorporated areas from the old theme of Thrakesion and parts of the theme of Kibyrraioton, still under Byzantine rule. The theme Neokastra, bordering Opsikion and Thrakesion, was named after the fortresses that Manuel reconstructed in the previously abandoned areas: Adramyttion, Chliara and Pergamon. The area of Cilicia, which had great ties to Cyprus, was under the command of a Byzantine dux, whenever the latter was not threatened by the Rupenid Armenians. The themes were usually ruled by a doukas, often a member of the imperial family, who had authority over all the officials, including the fiscal ones. The domesticate ton Scholon was once again divided into two parts, East and West; however, some *domestikoi*, such as John Axouch, close associate of John II, held both offices.

Under the Angeloi, the themes were divided further into smaller regions. Two documents describe this new situation: Firstly, the chrysobull of Alexios II listing Venetian privileges includes a full list of cities and provinces, where Venetian trade was allowed. Secondly, the *Partitio Romanie* of 1204, the document that divided the imperial territory among the Crusaders; based on administrative documents found in the *sekreta* of the capital, it presents an outline - incomplete though, as it doesn't include the dissident regions towards the capital at the time - of the Byzantine administrative system just before the fall of Constantinople. According to that document, Asia Minor fell under the jurisdiction of the Latin emperor and was organised in themes (*provinciae*) and *episkepseis* (*pertinentiai*). Among the regions mentioned are those of: Optimaton, Nicomedia, Tarsos, Plousia, Metabole, Paphlagonia, Boukellarion, Oinoe, Sinope and Vavra, Pilai, Pithia and Keramon, Malagina, Adramyttion, Chliara and Pergamon, Neokastra, Mylasa-Melanoudion, Laodikeia and Meander. In some cases, two themes were merged together, such as Boukellarion and Paphlagonia, since the majority of their territories had fallen in the hands of the Turks. In other cases, as in the theme of Neokastra, their territories were further divided. Within a theme, the *episkepseis* were reckoned only in part, as they were usually under the control of members of the imperial family, such as the Kontostephanoi and the Kamytzai in the prosperous valley of Meander; they had probably received that area as a pronoia.

In conclusion, the Komnenoi managed to restore effectively the military and political administration in Asia Minor, which had been greatly put under the test by the wars against the Turks and the Latins of Constantinople. As soon as the external danger was removed, the Laskarids, taking advantage of the established conditions in the area, managed to found their Empire in Asia Minor, and they began preparing for the recapture of Constantinople.

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2. Zacos G. - Veglery A., *Byzantine Lead Seals* I, Bâle 1972, n° 261 or Seibt W. - Zarnitz M.-L., *Das byzantinische Bleisiegel als Kunstwerke. Katalog zur Austellung* (Vienne 1997), n° 1.3.8.

3. *Theophanis Chronographia* 1-2, ed. C. de Boor (Leipzig 1883-1885), p. 419.

4. *Theophanis*, p. 378.

5. On Apsimar, *Theophanis*, *op. cit*., p. 370 (698) ; on Manes, *ibid*., p. 410 (732).

6. Seibt W., «Armenika themata als terminus technicus der byzantinischen Verwaltungsgeschichte des 11. Jahrhunderts», in *Byzantium and its Neighbours, from the mid-9th till the 12th centuties*, [= *Byzantinoslavica* 54/1] (1993), pp.134-141.

7. Oikonomides N., «Le marchand byzantin des provinces (IXe-Xe s.)» in *Mercati e mercanti nell'alto Medioevo : l'area euroasiatica e l'area mediterranea (23-29 aprile 1992)*, Spoleto 1993, repr. idem, *Social and Economic Life in Byzantium* (Aldershot 2004), n° XII, p. 640, esp. n. 13.

8. For example the metropolis of Nicaea incorporated the bishoprics of Noumerica, Taia, Maximianai, before the reign of Basil I (Darrouzès, *Notices*, σ. 40). Amorion, the capital of the *theme* of Anatolikon, and Smyrna, the port that partly replaced Ephesos, were both promoted to metropolitan sees (*ibid*., p. 71).

9. Cheynet J.-Cl., «Épiskeptitai et autres gestionnaires des biens publics (d'après les sceaux de L'IFEB)», *Studies in Byzantine Sigillography* 7 (2002), pp. 87-117, repr. in idem, *La société byzantine. L'apport des sceaux*, (Bilans de recherche 3) (Paris 2008), v. 9.

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Γλωσσάριο :

anagrapheus

A Byzantine fiscal official, whose main function was the revision of the cadaster.

archon

Term that designates a governor in general. When it is not used in a technical sense, it denotes members of the aristocracy, high officers of the byzantine empire and it is even used for independent princes.

chartoularios

Byzantine officer (from the word charta meaning the official document) with various duties
1. In the Early Byzantine period the chartoularii served the officia of high rank, like the prefecturae, being in charge of the archives. In the Middle Byzantine period chartoulari served almost everywhere, being in charge of the archives; the office of megas chartoularios administering the homonymous sekreton appears as well. From the 12 th c. some chartoularii appear to undertake military duty and during the 13th c. the megas chartoularios was an officer of high rank in the court. 2. Ecclesiastical officer, in charge of the archives (close to chartophylax).

chrysobull

(gold seal) Imperial document of the Byzantine state which was so named because it bore the gold seal of the emperor.

comes

1. A title in the Roman and the Byzantine Empires, designating an official with political but mostly military jurisdiction. Especially the *comes Orientis* held the position corresponding to that of a vicar in Early Byzantine period. In the years of Justinian I, the comes in head of wider provinces assumed political and military powers, while in the Middle Byzantine period the Opsikion theme was one of the few themes which was the jurisdiction of a comes instead of a strategos.
2. A nobility title in medieval Europe.

domestikos

A term that during Byzantine times denoted a wide array of ecclesiastic, civil and military officials. In church hierarchy the domestikoi were in charge of special groups connected with liturgical rites, such as lectors, sub-deacons but mainly cantors. In the military chain of command during the 6th, 7th and 8th century the domestikoi were the commanders of the *tagmata*, the regiments under the direct command of the Emperor.

domestikos ton scholon

Commander of the regiment of *scholae*. The first officer with this title appears in 767/8. In the 10th C the domesticos became very powerful among the army of the *themata*; in mid-10th C the office was divided in two, *domestikoi ton scholon* of the East and those of the West, commanders in chief of the eastern and the western provinces´ army respectively.

doukas (lat. dux)

Antiquity: Roman military commander who, in some provinces, combined military and civil functions.
Buzantium: a higher military officer. From the second half of the 10th c. the title indicates the military comander of a larger district. After the 12th c., doukes were called the governors of small themes.

droungarios

A military rank, first mentioned in the 7th century. This officer was in command of a *droungos*, a subdivision of the provincial army (*thema*).

episkepsis, couratoria

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(byz) The large imperial estates, namely "episkepseis" (under the episkeptites) or "curatoria" (under the curator), included settlements, arable lands, forests, aquafer, domestic animals and cattle. The episkepseis could be either autonomous or form parts of the curatoriae, which were rather larger estates. Any autonomous episkepsis could become a private estate after an imperial donation.

exarchate

Byzantine administrative term, designating a territorial and and administrative unit. It was formed in late 6th C. in Carthago and Ravenna, both regions of high political and military importance. The exarch (the govrnor of an exarchate) accordingly combined both political and military power. The exarchate of Carthago is attested until the late 7th C., while that of Ravenna until the mid-8th C.

indiction

A 15-year cycle according to which a year was assigned in the Middle Ages. Initially it denoted an extraordinary agricultural tax; later on (under Constantine I) it was a tax of which the amount remained unchanged during a 15-year cycle. It gradually acquired a chronological meaning, which it kept even after the tax ceased to exist. The chronological system based on indictions became mandatory under Justinian I. The system was not absolutely precise, since it was the years of the indiction that were reckoned (first indiction, second indiction and so on, until the fifteenth), while the cycles themselves were not numbered.

katepano

(from "epano","above") Governor of a katepania. Title that from the end of the 10th century characterized the commanders of large provinces as Italy or Mesopotamia and from the 11th century, it was used also in the regions of Bulgaria, Antioch etc.

komes tes kortes

Συμπληρώστε την περιγραφή στην γλώσσα μετάφρασης

kommerkiarios (commerciarius)

An official of the fiscal service in charge of the levying of the tax called commercion (δεκάτη<, 10%), that was imposed over the portage and the selling of articles. The jurisdinction of each commerciarius was exersised either over specific urban centers with vivid commercial activity or over particular widespread territories of the empire. Since the official had been appointed by the emperor himself he used to be called "royal commerciarius".
In the Late Byzantine era the commerciarius acted also as an individual entrepreneur who used to merchandise silk for his own interest.

kommerkion

This name had two meanings in Byzantium 1. ***Commercium*** (lat.), which in late Roman times designated the frontier cities where exchanges with foreign merchants were authorised. 2. ***Kommerkion***, which was a circulation and sales tax, paid at the customs, and collected on mercandise imported into the empire and on merchandise reaching Constantinople by the sea. It appears in the sources c. 800 and was also called *dekate*, its rate being 10 percent of the merchandise value.

krites

Byzantine judicial office.

logothetes

A title designating high-rank officials, both administrative and ecclesiastical. Their responsibilities were mainly in the economic domain. The office of the logothetes of the Patriarchate gradually gained in importance after the 12th century. As for the logothetes of the metropolises, they seem to have assumed judicial jurisdiction.

logothetes tou genikou

Συμπληρώστε την περιγραφή στην γλώσσα μετάφρασης

mandator

An office of the Middle Byzantine period. His role was generally to act as a messenger, while sometimes he held extraordinary functions. It appears as an office around the 9th century. There were ‘basilikoi mandatores’ (=royal messengers), headed by the ‘protomandator’ (=supreme messenger) serving the imperial court, as well as simple ‘mandatores’, i.e. military or civilian officials at the service of the military governor of the logothetes tou dromou. During his public appearances, the emperor was accompanied by a royal protomandator, who brandished a “χρυσέον βεργίν”, that is a golden rod embellished with precious stones. The office of the mandatory was replaced in around the 12th century by that of the tzaousios.

Notitia episcopatuum

The Notitiae episcopatuum are official documents of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and Antioch, containing the ecclesiastical dioceses in hierarchical order.These documents were modfied regularly.

praetorian prefecture (praefecura praitorio)

In Late Roman Empire it was the basic administrative unit. Prefectures were estabished by Constantine I (4th century). The Empire was then divided to four praetorian prefectures: i) praefectura praetorio per Orientem (prefecture of Oriens), ii) praefectura praetorio Galliarum (prefecture of Galliae), iii) praefectura praetorio per Illyricum (prefecture of Illyricum), iv) praefectura praetorio Italiae, Illyrici et Africae (prefecture of Italia and Africa).

procurator

Συγγραφή : Cheynet Jean-Claude
Μετάφραση : Ανδριοπούλου Βέρα

Για παραπομπή : Cheynet Jean-Claude , "Administrative system in byzantine Asia Minor", Εγκυκλοπαίδεια Μείζονος Ελληνισμού, Μ. Ασία
URL: <http://www.ehw.gr/l.aspx?id=12539>

Administrator of a roman Province deriving from the class of equites. He was controlled directly by the Emperor and his legati Augusti pro praetore.

pronoia

("care", "forethought") An institution that goes back to the 11th century. It refers to estates granted to a prominent military official or to the Church; it also designates in general the right of an individual of areligious foundation to receive directly from citizens of farmers whatever dues they would normally be obliged to pay to the state. The holder of a *pronoia* was called *pronoiarios*. The *pronoiai* could not be inherited by the family of military officials after their death, while when a donation was made to the Church, the pronoia was considered full and permanent.

protonotarios

High byzantine official. The chief of the notarioi (secretarial officials). The office of protonotarios was probably created with the system of the logothesia an was in use from the from the 9th to the 12th C. AD. In the Late Byzantine Period protonotarioi was the emperor's personal secretary and was mentioned as imperial grammateus.

sekreton

A Byzantine administrative term that denotes a bureau or department. It was in use throughout the Byzantine period and referred to various state sectors. From the 7th c. onward the term was also extended to ecclesiastical usages.

strategos ("general")

During the Roman period his duties were mainly political. Office of the Byzantine state´s provincial administration. At first the title was given to the military and political administrator of the themes, namely of the big geographic and administrative unities of the Byzantine empire. Gradually the title lost its power and, already in the 11th century, strategoi were turned to simple commanders of military units, responsible for the defence of a region.

tourma

(lat. *turma*, meaning squadron) Administrative division of a theme in the Middle Byzantine period. A tourma was further subdivised into *droungoi* and *banda*.

tourmarch

Civilian and military commander of a *tourma*, subdivision of a *theme*.

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Χρονολόγιο

Mid – 7th century: Formation of the themes of Anatolikon and Armeniakon

Mid- 8th century: End of plague epidemic

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URL: <http://www.ehw.gr/l.aspx?id=12539>

Reign of Constantine V : First division of the large themes

843 : Capture and destruction of Amorion by the Arabs

10th century : Creation of the «Armenian themes»

Reign of John Tzimiskes: Creation of the large *doukata* - *katepanata*

Reign of John Tzimiskes: Complete catalogue of the themes of Asia Minor in the Taktikon Escorial

Middle of 11th century : Installation of Armenians in Cappadocia

End of 11th century : Turkish occupation and destruction of the old themes

Beginning of 12th century : First re-organisation of themes in Asia Minor (Thrakesion, Opsikiou)

Middle of 12th century : Formation of the themes of Mylasa-Melanoudion and Neokastra

1198 : Chrysobull of Alexios III in favour of Venitians

1204 : *Partitio Romanie*