



Περίληψη :

A geographical area, an *aplékton* and a fortress of Bithynia of great military importance in the valley of the river Sangarius. It can be possibly identified with the castle overlooking modern Pasalar, which is still standing between Mekece and Gevye. Malagina initially must have belonged to the theme of Opsikion and then to the theme of Optimatoi. In 1306 it was conquered by the Ottomans.

Άλλες Ονομασίες

Melagina, Melaggeia, Melas, Melaina, Melania

Γεωγραφική Θέση

North-western Asia Minor, today north-western Turkey

Ιστορική Περιοχή

Bithynia

Διοικητική Υπαγωγή

Province of Bithynia, theme of Opsikion, theme of Optimatoi

1. Name

During the Byzantine period, from the middle of the 7th century until the final collapse of the Byzantine imperial power in Asia Minor, Malagina was a location, an *aplékton* and a fortress of major military importance. The name Malagina or Melagina initially designated a wider area (land of the Malaginoi), as it is shown in hagiological texts.¹ From the 11th century the name Melageia is also documented in the works of Michael Attaleiates,² John Kinnamos³ and [Niketas Choniates](#).⁴ John Zonaras is the only one who comments that Melageia was the contemporary official name of Malagina.⁵ Other names such as Melaina, Melania, Melas, are documented in ecclesiastic catalogues of the 14th century.⁶ Malagina initially belonged to the [theme of Opsikion](#) and in the 8th century it passed under the jurisdiction of the [theme of Optimatoi](#); however, the town is not mentioned by Constantine VII Porphyrogenetus in his work *De Thematibus*.⁷

2. Information concerning the location of Malagina

2.1. Malagina in the Alexiad

The majority of written sources locate Malagina on the river Sangarius. During the 12th century, however, there appears to have been another location named Malagina in the region of [Olympos of Bithynia](#).⁸ In 1113, as mentioned in the [Alexiad](#), the emperor Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118) followed the rough road via Nicaea, Malagina and Basilika,⁹ to reach the locations of Alethina and Akroko (mod. Egrigoz in [Phrygia](#)) in order to confront the massive raid of the Seldjuks in the north-western Asia Minor.¹⁰ In 1116, following the victory against the Seldjuks in the region of ancient Mysia, Alexios I returned to Lopadion to prepare and organize a more massive campaign against the Seldjuks. Then he moved on to Aera, on the Bithynian coast facing [Nicomedia](#), where he raised the Byzantine army which had camped on the mountains of Olympos and Malagna.¹¹ Foss identifies Malagna with Malagina of 1113, and believes that it is the mountainous area south of the lake Askania which separate Nicaea from Yenisehir, as it crosses the mountain which is called today Avdan Dağ.

2.2. Mesonesos of Malagina

Sources mention a place called Mesonesos on the Sangarius in the area of Malagina. More specifically, the *droungarios* Nicetas, who went to Mesonesos of Malagina for certain reasons concerning his office, is mentioned in the narration of the *post-mortem* miracles of [Saint Peter of Atroa](#).¹² Around 1304, according to [George Pachymeres](#), the emir Ali, son of Yavlak Arslan, wanted to cooperate



with the Byzantines and demanded to the Byzantine emperor the area of Mesonesion (Μεσονήσιον), on the river Sangarius, in order to set his soldiers and protect the inhabitants of the Byzantine regions.¹³ According to Foss, this area could be identified to the valley of Adapazar, located in a great distance below Sangarius. Such identification would place, according to Foss, Malagina in another administrative district.¹⁴

2.3. Modern theories about the location of the Malagina

The location of Malagina is, according to Foss, indicated by the castle of Metabole,¹⁵ which was at Malagina and was visited by [Manuel I Komnenos](#) (1143-1180). In historical sources Malagina is sometimes presented as a region and other times, mainly during the [Komnenian dynasty](#), as a specific location which around 1190 is characterized as a small city ("polis") and is usually connected to the castle of Metabole.¹⁶ The same scholar suggests that this is the castle which up to our days overlooks Pasalar, and is dated around the 7th century, while a great part of it was renovated during the reign of Manuel I Komnenos.¹⁷ This castle lies at a very good location and is bound to the roads leading to Nicomedia and its suburbs.¹⁸ According to the sources,¹⁹ no road leading to [Dorylaeum](#)- through which Malagina was connected- has been located; however, Foss believes that it is more probable to identify Malagina with the extended plain of Sangarius between the modern sites of Mekece and Geyve.²⁰

3. History of Malagina

3.1. The first mention of Malagina

Malagina is attested for the first time in a prophecy of pseudo-Methodios.²¹ This text dates back to the end of the 7th century and discloses the prophecy that the Arabs would invade Constantinople. This prophecy, though never fulfilled, was associated with the siege of Constantinople by the Arabs between the years 674 and 678. According to the text, the Arab forces would be massing in three places for the winter, that is [Ephesos](#), [Pergamon](#) and Malagina. According to Foss, this information shows that since the 7th century Malagina was considered to be an important military base and was the target of Arab raiders.

3.2. Malagina until the 11th century

In 786, as mentioned in [Theophanes' Chronographia](#), the empress [Eirene](#) (797-802), in order to secure the unhindered conduct of a council for the restoration of the cult of the icons, altered the composition of military units in Constantinople and the suburbs. Using a campaign against the Arabs as a pretext, she removed the imperial escort and the members of the court to Asia Minor. The iconoclastic troops reached Malagina and the army of the provincial themes entered the region.²² Malagina was occasionally the target of Arab raiders. Theophanes mentions a raid of the Arabs, dated to 798, during which the Arabs reached up to Malagina and stole the horses of the imperial cavalry (Stavrakios' horses).²³ In 844 Theophanes Continuatus reports that the [emir](#) of Melitene Amer (Amur) ravaged the theme of [Thrakesion](#) as far as Malagina.²⁴ An Arab attack dated to 858 is also mentioned by Zonaras.²⁵ According to Constantine Porphyrogenetus (945-959), Malagina was the first [aplékton](#) for the imperial army to be gathered on their way to the East, where the [strategoi](#) of the themes of Thrakesion and [Anatolikon](#) would meet the Byzantine emperor at the beginning of a campaign.²⁶

Malagina was also the seat of the imperial stables, which provided the troops of the [tagmata](#) with horses during the campaigns.²⁷ The excellent organization of the stables and the hierarchy of the dignitaries show the importance of the military operations of the Byzantines.²⁸ Malagina is also related in sources with rebels and rebellious movements in nearby areas. It is known that under the reign of Nikephoros (802-811) Malagina did not accept the [patrikios](#) and strategos of the Anatolikon [Bardanes Tourkos](#) as an emperor, when he returned to Malagina after the unsuccessful siege of Constantinople.²⁹ In 1069 Malagina is mentioned as an [episkepsis](#), on the occasion of the passing of emperor [Romanos IV Diogenes](#) (1068-1071) in order to muster a small army to suppress the rebellion of the Norman Krispinos.³⁰



3.3. Malagina during the 12th century

The special interest shown by emperor Manuel I Komnenos for the organization of the defense and the protection of the borders of the empire reflects, according to historical sources, the struggle against the Seldjuk Turks, who, around 1144-1145, had advanced until Malagina. According to Kinnamos, the emperor built a castle at Melaggeia (Malagina).³¹ Choniates also mentions that, after the successful repulse of the Seljuks, Manuel I Komnenos renovated the existing fortifications and placed a garrison there, strengthening the area's defense.³² According to Kinnamos the older castle was apparently located at Metabole, where Manuel I Komnenos had lived in an unknown time.³³ In 1147, German crusaders of the Second Crusade passed through Malagina on their way to Dorylaeum.³⁴ In 1159, the cousin of emperor Manuel I Komnenos, Andronikos Komnenos, revolted, was arrested at Malagina and was imprisoned there.³⁵ In 1175 the gathering of troops from Bithynia and Ryndakos took place at Malagina, before Manuel I Komnenos fortified Dorylaeum in order to confront the Seldjuks and [Armenians](#) of Cilicia.³⁶

The defeat of Manuel I Komnenos at Myriokefalon in 1176, as well as the civil wars weakened Byzantines' position in Asia Minor. The small city of Malagina had a particular importance for the military operations. The archdiocese of Malagina appears at the same time,³⁷ whereas according to Foss, the city's inhabitants enjoyed a noteworthy independence.³⁸ In 1195, emperor Alexios III Angelos (1195-1203) went over to Malagina in order to gain the support of the inhabitants against Alexios II or Pseudo-Alexios who had mutinied with the collaboration of the emir of Ankara. The inhabitants of Malagina recognized him as an emperor but a certain part supported the rebel.³⁹ Malagina became the centre of an administrative unit in the late 12th century, with a [doukas](#) and a [stratopedarches](#) was at head.⁴⁰

3.4. Malagina during the late Byzantine period

In 1204, in the [Partitio Romaniae](#) a *provincia Malagini* (province of Malagina) is mentioned, which reflects the importance of the area.⁴¹ During the 13th century Malagina formed part of a chain of very important fortifications in order to protect the eastern frontier at Sangarius and repulse the increasingly pressing Seldjuks' raids.⁴² In 1280 [Michael VIII Palaiologos](#) (1259-1282) traveled to Sangarius where he inspected the walls and the next year he showed a great interest for the region. The Seldjuks crossed the river and entered the Byzantine territory causing the immediate reaction of Michael, who attempted a campaign to the east of Sangarius, in the area of Tarsia. The unsuccessful outcome of his campaign lead Michael to proceed to the construction of new fortresses on both banks of Sangarius, in order to strengthen the borders, and also to lay obstacles in the river.⁴³ The walls proved to be particularly resistant and protected the region for a period of thirty years. In 1290 [Andronikos II Palaiologos](#) (1282-1328) visited the region of Sangarius and repaired the walls in order to protect the Byzantine population.⁴⁴ The last reference of Malagina as Byzantine dominion dates to 1302, when emir Ali asked for permission to set his soldiers at Mesonesos.⁴⁵ The castle of Malagina had literally fallen into disuse, since the Ottomans, who had already settled in the mountains east of Malagina, advanced gradually towards the south to the Byzantine territory along the Sangarius with no need to proceed to one single frontal assault.⁴⁶ Malagina was conquered by the Ottomans in 1306.⁴⁷ It was deserted for some time, but apparently, thanks to its important geographical location, it recovered and acquired privileges from the Ottomans.⁴⁸

1. In the "Miracles" of Saint Peter of Atroa a certain drouggarios Nicetas is mentioned, see Laurent, V. (ed.), *La Vita retractata et les miracles posthumes de Saint Pierre d'Atroa* (Subsidia Hagiographica 31, Bruxelles 1958), p. 163. See also «Βίος καὶ θαύματα τοῦ Ὁσίου πατρὸς ἡ μῶν Εὐ στρατίου, ἡ γουμένου τῆς μονῆς τῶν Αὐ γάρου», in Παπαδόπουλος-Κεραμεύς, Α. (ed.), *Ανάλεκτα Ἱεροσολυμιτικῆς Σταχυολογίας*, vols. I-V (Αγία Πετρούπολις 1888-1897), vol. V, p. 367-400; see p. 398 § 54.1. Cf. Halkin, Fr. (ed.), *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca* (Subsidia Hagiographica 8a, Bruxelles 1957), vols. 1- 3, no. 645.

2. *Michaelis Attalioetae Historia*, Bekker, I. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1853), p. 124.

3. *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.) (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 36.17-19.



4. *Nicetae Choniatae Historia*, Van Dieten, I. A.(ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* XI/1, Berlin 1975), p. 52, 108, 462.
5. *Ioannis Zonaras Epitomae Historiarum*, Pinder, M. – Butther-Wobst, T. (ed.) (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, t. 3, Bonnae 1897), p. 398.5-6.
6. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. 165 n. 26. *Acta Patriarchatus Constantinopolitani, Acta et Diplomata graeca medii aevi Sacra et Profana*, Miklosich, M. – Müller, J., (ed.), t. 2 (Vienna 1862), p. 561.
7. According to T. Lounghis, it is possible that after 823, the Optimatoi became a corps of muleteers that was stationed at Malagina instead of Nikomedeia. See Βλυσίδου, Β. et.al. *Η Μικρά Ασία των θεμάτων. Έρευνες πάνω στην γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία και προσωπογραφία των βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας (7ος-11ος αι.)* (ΙΒΕ/ΕΙΕ Επιστημονική Βιβλιοθήκη no. 1, Αθήνα 1998), pp. 237-239. Cf. *Constantino Porfirogenito De Thematibus*, Pertusi, A. (ed.), (Studi e Testi 160, Vaticano 1952).
8. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 177.
9. *Anne Comnene Alexiade*, Leib, B. (ed.), vol. 3 (Paris 1945), p. 168 (XIV. v. 7). Anna Comnene comments that Malagina and Basilika are located on Olympus.
10. Malagina and Basilika are mentioned also in an Arabic source as being on the road which led from the Cilician Gates to Constantinople, before Nicaea and Nikomedeia. This information is interesting but also vague. See "Ibn Khordadbeh, Kitab al-Masalik w'al-Mamalik", in De Goeje, M.J. (ed.), *Bibliotheca geographorum arabicorum*, vol. 6 (Lugduni, Bataavorum 1890), p. 102, 113. This historical source was not accessible and this reference is quoted as in the article of Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 162, n. 11 και p. 177, n. 64.
11. *Anne Comnene Alexiade*, Leib, B. (ed.), vol. 3 (Paris 1945), p. 190 (XV. I. 5).
12. Laurent, V. (ed.), *La Vita retractata et les miracles posthumes de Saint Pierre d'Atroa* (Subsidia Hagiographica 31, Bruxelles 1958), p. 163.
13. *Georges Pachymérès Relations Historiques*, Failler, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 24/4, Paris 1999), p. 507.
14. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 178-180.
15. *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.)(*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 36.17-19.
16. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 172.
17. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. pp. 166-172.
18. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 171.
19. *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 81.10-11.
20. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 169, 172.
21. (Pseudo-)Methodios, *Die Apokalypse des Ps. Methodios*, Lolos, A. (ed.), (Meissenheim 1976), p. 120. See also Sahin, S. (ed.), *Katalog der antiken Inschriften des Museums von Iznik (Nikaia)*, II.3 (Bonn 1987), p. 150. The above-mentioned historical sources were not accessible and this reference is quoted as in the article of Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 161, n. 3.
22. *Theophanis Chronographia*, de Boor, C. (ed.), vol. 1 (Lipsiae 1883), p. 462, v. 10-12. *Georgius Monachus Chronicon*, De Boor, C. (ed.), vol. 2 (Stuttgart 1904, repr. 1978), p. 769.
23. *Theophanis Chronographia*, de Boor, C. (ed.), vol. 1 (Lipsiae 1883), p. 473.24-27.



24. *Theophanis Continuatus*, Bekker, I. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1838), p. 198.
25. *Ioannis Zonarae Epitomae Historiarum*, Pinder, M. – Butther-Wobst, T. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, vol. 3, Bonnae 1897), p. 398.5-6.
26. *Constantini Porphyrogeniti tres tractatus de expeditionibus militaribus imperatoris*, Haldon, J.F. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 28, Wien 1990), p. 80.3.
27. *Constantini Porphyrogeniti tres tractatus de expeditionibus militaribus imperatoris*, Haldon, J.F. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 28, Wien 1990), p. 80.3; 116.342; 118.368; 118.386-7; 126.516.
28. The *logothetes of the agelai* was responsible for the gathering of the necessary number of animals needed for a campaign. They were led to Malagina and delivered to the *comes of the stables*, who was responsible, among other things, for the supply of barley. The *chartoularioi*, the *syntrophoi*, the *saphramentoi*, the *archontes* of Malagina compose the network of the high and low dignitaries. See *Constantini Porphyrogeniti tres tractatus de expeditionibus militaribus imperatoris*, ed. Haldon, J.F. (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 28, Wien 1990), p. 80.3; 116.342; 118.368; 118.386-7; 126.516. Cf. also Oikonomidès, N. (ed.), *Les Listes de préséance Byzantines des IXe et Xe siècles* (Paris 1972).
29. *Georgius Monachus Chronicon*, de Boor, C (ed.), vol. 2 (Stuttgart 1904, repr.1978), p. 772.
30. *Michaelis Attaliotae Historia*, Bekker, I. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1853), p. 124.
31. *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 36.17-19. This is the first mention of the castle, although in the sources it appears that another one pre-existed in the region.
32. *Nicetae Choniatae Historia*, Van Dieten, I. A. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* XI/1, Berlin 1975), p. 52.
33. *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 127.21-23.
34. *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 81.10-11.
35. *Nicetae Choniatae Historia*, Van Dieten, I. A. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* XI/1, Berlin 1975), p. 108.
36. Κίνναμος, *Ioannis Cinnami Epitome*, Meineke, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 294, v. 6-8.
37. *Notitiae Episcopatum Ecclesiae Constantinopolitanae*, Darrouzes, J. (ed.), (Paris 1981), nos. 12. 147.
38. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 164.
39. *Nicetae Choniatae Historia*, Van Dieten, I. A. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* XI/1, Berlin 1975), p. 462.
40. Xanthopoulos, Th., "Sceau de Manuel Lykaiètès", *Échos d'Orient* 5 (1901-2), pp. 161-164.
41. *Partitio Regni Graeci, Urkunden zur älteren Handels- und Staatsgeschichte der Republik Venedig, mit besonderer Beziehung auf Byzanz und die Levante*, Tafel, G. – Thomas, G.(ed.), vol. 1 (Vienna 1856, Amsterdam 1964), p. 478. *Partitio Terrarum Imperii Romaniae*, Carile, A. (ed.), (*Studi Veneziani* 7, 1965), pp. 125-305, esp. p. 242.
42. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (London 1990), pp. 161-183, esp. pp. 173-176.
43. *Georges Pachymérès Relations Historiques*, Failler, A. (ed.), (*Coprus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 24/2, Paris 1999), p. 599, 633-7.
44. The inhabitants of the region of Sangarius are mentioned as Alizones and commonly as Mesothynites. See Παχυμέρης, *Georges Pachymérès Relations Historiques*, Failler, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 24/2, Paris 1999), p. 402, 405.



45. Zachariadou, E, "Pachymeres on the 'Amourioi' of Kastamonu", *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* 3 (1977), pp. 57-70.
46. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), pp. 161-183, esp. p. 175.
47. Παχυμέρης, *Georges Pachymérés Relations Historiques*, Failler, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae* 24/4, Paris 1999), p. 455.
48. Foss, C., "Byzantine Malagina and the Lower Sangarius", *Anatolian Studies* 40 (1990), p. 161-183, esp. 165.

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Δικτυογραφία :

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Period

<http://www.deremilitari.org/RESOURCES/ARTICLES/haldon1.htm>

Η σφραγίδα ενός αξιωματούχου των Μαλαγίνων, μέσα 11ου αιώνα.

http://linnet.cch.kcl.ac.uk:8080/seals/seals_boulloterion.jsp?bKey=2352

Γλωσσάριο :

aplêkton, fossaton

Since late Antiquity the terms *aplêkton* (< applicitum) and *fossaton* (< fossa: ditch) meant the military camp. During the middle Byzantine period *aplêkton* took a more specific meaning defining the place where the imperial troops were raised before a campaign. The imperial *aplêkta* in Asia Minor were six: Malagina, Dorylaion, Lopadion, Καβόρκιν, η Δαζυμών, ο Βαθύς Ρύαξ. The list of the *aplêkta* of the empire is preserved under the title «Υπόθεσις τῶν βασιλικῶν ταξειδίων καὶ ὑ πόμνησις τῶν ἀ πλήκτων», which is incorporated in the most complete manuscript of the work of Constantine Porphyrogenetus (944-959) *De ceremoniis aulae byzantinae* (*Περὶ βασιλείου τάξεως*), in the codex of Lipsia of 12th century.

doukas (lat. dux)

Antiquity: Roman military commander who, in some provinces, combined military and civil functions.

Byzantium: a higher military officer. From the second half of the 10th c. the title indicates the military commander 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*).

emir

(from Arabic *amir*) Emir meaning "commander" or "general", later also "prince". Also a high title of nobility or office in some Turkic historical states.

episkepsis, couratoria

(byz) The large imperial estates, namely "episkepsis" (under the *episkeptites*) or "curatoria" (under the curator), included settlements, arable lands, forests, aquifer, domestic animals and cattle. The *episkepsis* 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.

Partitio Romaniae

The document of the treaty signed by the Latins of the IV Crusade (twelve Venetians and twelve Franks) between the 12th april and the 9th may of the year 1204. According to the text the Latin Empire of Constantinople was founded and the territories of the Byzantine Empire were divided among the Venetians and the Franks.

patrikios

(from lat. *patricius*) Higher title of honour, placed, according to the "Tactika" of the 9th and the 10th centuries, between *anthypatos* and *protospatharios*. It was given to the most important governors and generals. Gradually, however, it fell into disuse and from the 12th century did not exist any more.

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, *stratego*i were turned to simple commanders of military units, responsible for the defence of a region.

stratopedarches

1. Commander in chief (1st-2nd c.), general (5th-9th c.)
2. *stratopedarches* of the East and *stratopedarches* of the West: official designation of the eunuch *domesticos ton scholon* (10th c.) and of the military commander (11th-12th c.)
3. *megas stratopedarches* was initially a high-ranking official and afterwards defined the commander of troops (13th - 14th c.).

tagmata (pl.)

Military units stationed in Constantinople and its outskirts during the Middle Byzantine period. The most important *tagmata* were that of the *Scholae*, the *Excubitores* (these originated from respective units of the Early Byzantine period and were organized into an imperial guard and a central strike force by Constantine V), the *Vigilia* (established by Irene the Athenian) and the *Hikanatoi* (established by Nicephorus I).

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Παραθέματα

1. Empress Irene pretends to organise a campaign against the Arabs

Τούτω τῷ ἔτει ἀποστείλασα ἡ βασίλισσα Σταυράκιον τὸν πατρίκιον καὶ λογοθέτην ἐν τῇ Θράκῃ τῷ Σεπτεμβρίῳ μηνί, ἀρχὴ τῆς <ι> ἰνδικτιῶνος, πρὸς τὰ περατικὰ θέματα ἐκεῖσε τηρικαῦτα ὄντα, ἔπεισεν αὐτοὺς συνεργῆσαι αὐτῇ καὶ ἐξεῶσαι τῆς πόλεως τὸν δυσσεβῆ λαὸν, ὃν ὁ ἀλάστωρ Κωνσταντῖνος ἐστράτευσε τε καὶ ἐπαίδευσεν. καὶ πλασαμένη φωσατεῦειν μέλλειν ἐπὶ τὰ ἀνατολικά μέρη, ὡς τῶν Ἀράβων ἐξεληθόντων, ἐξῆλθε πᾶσα ἡ βασιλικὴ ὑπουργία καὶ ἡ κόρη ἕως τῶν Μαλαγίνων. καὶ εἰσελθόντες οἱ τῶν ἔξω θεμάτων ἐκράτησαν τὴν πόλιν.

Theophanis Chronographia, De Boor, C. (ed.), t. 1 (Lipsiae 1883), p. 462.10-12.

2. In 1144-5, Manuel decides to build a fortress in Melagegia

...ἀλλὰ τοῦτο μὲν χρόνοις ὕστερον φιλοτιμότερα πρὸς βασιλέως ἀνεπλήσθη πλείους ἀνοικισαμένου πόλεις· τότε δ' οὖν ἔγνω πολίχνην ἐν τοῖς οὕτω Μελαγγείοις καλουμένοις ἀνεγείραι.



Ioannis Cinnami Historiarum, Meineke, A. (ed.), (*Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*, Bonnae 1836), p. 36.17-19.

Χρονολόγιο

7th century: Malagina already exists in the 7th century

798: An Arab raid reaches as far as Malagina, stealing of the horses of the imperial cavalry

803: Return of the rebel Bardanes Tourkos at Malagina, after the unsuccessful siege of Constantinople

844: Plundering of the thema of Thrakesion as far as Malagina by the emir of Melitene Amer (Amur)

858: Arab raid

875: Arab raid

ca 950: Malagina is the first *aplepton* where the imperial troops gather on their way to the East

1069: Malagina is listed as an *episkepsis*. Romanos IV Diogenis (1068-1071) gathers his army at Malagina in order to confront the Norman rebel Krispinus

1074: Mention of the palace of John Doukas in proximity to Malagina

1144-1145: A castle is built by Manuel I Comnenos at Malagina (Melaggeia)

1147: German Crusaders of the Second Crusade, heading to Dorylaion, pass through Malagina

1159: Arrest of the rebel Andronikos Komnenos, cousin of the emperor Manuel I Komnenos; he is imprisoned at Malagina

1195: The inhabitants of Malagina pledge allegiance to the lawful emperor Alexios III Angelos (1195-1203) against Alexios II or pseudo-Alexios

1204: *Partitio Romaniae* mentions the *provintia Malagini* (province of Malagina)

1280: Failure of the campaign of Michael VIII Palaiologos (1259-1282) against the Seljuks, resulting into the immediate construction of new fortresses on both banks of Sangarius to strengthen the borders

1290: The walls of Malagina are repaired by Andronikos II Palaiologos (1282-1328) in order to protect the local Byzantine population

1302: Emir Ali asks to set his soldiers at Mesonesos of Malagina

1306: Fall of Malagina to the Ottomans