ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΟΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΣΜΟΥ

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Summary :

Tabia was a Byzantine town and later a castle in Galatia, to the west of Ankyra, as well as an episcopal see. It was incorporated in the province of Galatia I in 399 and the themes of Armeniakon and Charsianon in the Middle Byzantine period. Tabia was captured by Seljuks (12th c.) and Ottomans (from the late 14th or the early 15th c.).

Other Names

Tawion, Tavium, Tawia, Tauia, Tawiniya, Büyüknefes, Nefezköy

Geographical Location

northern central Asia Minor, modern northern western Turkey

Historical Region

Galatia

Administrative Dependence

province of Galatia, province of Galatia I, theme of Armeniakon, theme of Charsianon

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1. Administration and History

Tabia (modern Büyüknefes) was situated 25 km to the east of Ankyra. The topography of the area is known partly from references to the town where Zoilus was martyred in the Early Byzantine period. In 399 Tabia was included in the province of Galatia I following the partition of the province of Galatia. Synekdemos of Hierokles (6th century) reports Tabia among the seven cities of Galatia I.[1] At the same time, the city was an episcopal see of the metropolis of Ankyra from the 4th-5th c. onwards.

In the Middle Byzantine period the city initially belonged to the theme of Armeniakon. The district included the village of Annia, the birthplace of Sergios Tychikos, the last Paulician spiritual leader. Tabia was directly connected with Ankyra through the road leading from Ankyra to the theme of Armeniakon. The roads ran northeast to Amaseia, Neocaesarea and Komana of the Pontos and southeast to Caesarea via Sebasteia. The road continued after Caesarea, though without a destination verified by modern researchers.

The outskirts of Tabia were an easy and apparent target for Arab raiders, who were constantly threatening Ankyra between 630 and 740. However, the city of Tabia must have evaded the rapacious raid of 727.[2] In the second half of the 9th century the wider area became the target of the Arab emir of Melitene Abdarahman ibn Halid.[3] In the years of Leo VI (886-912) there were reforms in the territorial status of Asia Minor themes. During these administrative changes the bandon based in Tabia was detached from the theme of Armeniakon and was incorporated (along with the bandon of Komodromon) in the tourma of Saniana, of the neighbouring theme of Charsianon, which also included Myriokephalon, the Holy Cross and Berinoupolis, former *banda* of the theme of Boukellarion.[4] In the last quarter of the 11th century the Türkmen started to settle in the wider area. Tabia must have been a Seljuk possession in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, while towards the late 12th century it probably came under the Byzantines. From the early 14th or the early 15th century onwards it was certainly dominated by the Ottomans.

2. Archaeological Remains

Traces of the fortification enclosure as well as architectural fragments and parts of inscriptions on walls in the nearby village of Yuzgat have survived from the Byzantine city of Tabia, which was built on two isolated hills. One of the inscriptions comes from the Church of St. Plato.

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1. Honigmann, E. (ed.), *Le Synekdèmos d'Hiéroklès et l'opuscule géographique de Georges de Chypre* (Bruxelles 1939), p. 34, 696.6.

2. Taina, captured and sacked by the Arabs in 727, when the latter advanced to Gangra and Nicaea under the general Mu'awiya b. Hisam, must have been the castle of Ateus in Phrygia.

3. It is believed that these events led to the administrative changes that took place in the second half of the 9th c. in the themes of the region; see Βλυσίδου Β. – Κουντούρα Ε. – Λαμπάκης Σ. – Λουγγής Τ. –Σαββίδης Α., *Η Μικρά Ασία των Θεμάτων: έρευνες πάνω στην γεωγραφική φυσιογνωμία και προσωπογραφία των βυζαντινών θεμάτων της Μικράς Ασίας* (7th – 11th c.) (Ερευνητική Βιβλιοθήκη 1, Athens 1998), pp. 125-126.

4. Moravcsik, G. – Jenkins, R. J .H. (ed.), *Constantine Porphyrogenitus, De Administrando Imperio* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 1, Washington D.C. 1967), p. 50, 101-108; Pertusi, A. (ed.), *Constantino Porfirogenito, De Thematibus* (Studi e Testi 160, Città del Vaticano 1952), p. 236.

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- **Συνεχισταί Θεοφάνους**, *Χρονογραφία συγγραφείσα εκ προστάγματος Κωνσταντίνου του φιλοχρίστου και πορφυρογεννήτου δεσπότου*, Bekker, I. (ed.), *Theophanes Continuatus, Joannes Cameniata, Symeon Magister, Georgius Monachus*, Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae, Bonn 1838
- **Πέτρος Σικελιώτης**, *Ιστορία*, *Les sources grecques pour l'histoire des Pauliciens d'Asie Mineure*, Astruc, C. et al. (eds), *Travaux et Mémoires 4*, Paris 1970

Glossary :

bandon

Byzantine military and administrative term. It originally meant flags, the banners of military units. It then indicated a part of the tourma and a small military unit (50-100 people in case of mountain troops and 200-400 in case of infantry). Gradually the term carried an administrative meaning as well, indicating a division of the theme. In the Empire of Trebizond it indicated the administrative territory.

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.

province

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An administrative unit in the Roman and Byzantine Empire. Established in the Roman Empire it is radically reformed by Diocletian, who abolishes the distinction between imperial and senatorial provinces and increases their number by dividing large provinces into smaller ones. Moreover, Diocletian divided the State into 12 dioceses, which included groups of provinces. Administrative reformations in the Byzantine era further increased the number of provinces while reducing their size. Provinces survived until the emrgence of the administrative system of the themes, around 7th c. However the term appears on commerciarii seals until the 9th c., and in written sources of the 11th-12th c. as a synonym of the theme.

Synekdemos of Hierokles

A geographical text book composed a little before 535 by Hierokles the Grammarian. It constitutes a list of 64 provinces and 923 (originally 935) cities of the Empire, being the most important source for the administrative and political geography of the Byzantine Empire prior to the Arab raids. It is assumed to have been based on state documents, and presents the political, administrative, and, to an extent, the ecclesiastical geography from mid-5th c. However, it contains additions from the age of Justinian I, while some of its evidence is still under discussion. Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos used it as a major source, along with Stephen of Byzantium, for the composition of the work “De thematibus”. This most important work of Hierokles was published by G. Parthey (Hieroclis Synecdemus, Berlin, 1866), and A. Burckhardt (Hieroclis Synecdemus, Leipzig, 1893). The last and most authoritative edition is E. Honigmann (ed.), Le Synekdèmos d'Hiéroklès et l'opuscule géographique de Georges de Chypre (Brussels 1939).

theme

A Byzantine term that signifies wide military and administrative units under the administration of a strategos (general). The institution was consolidated in the 7th century and was characteristic for the organization and the division of Byzantine Empire at the Middle Byzantine period. The term applies also to the army unit that resided in each administrative unit and was staffed by farmer-soldiers. The thematic system was maintained until the end of Byzantine period. However, in the Later Byzantine period it was used in order to declare mostly tax units.

tourma

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

Sources

Moravcsik, G. – Jenkins, R. J. H. (ed.), *Constantine Porphyrogenitus*, *De Administrando Imperio* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 1, Washington, D.C. 1967), pp. 50, 101-108.

Peter Siceliota, *Historia*, Astruc, Ch. (ed.), «Les sources grecques pour l’histoire des Pauliciens d’Asie Mineure», *Travaux et Mémoires* 4 (1970) pp. 51, 28 - 53, 13.

Quotations

The position of Tabia in the administrative structure of themes after Leo VI

“Ἰστέον, ὅτι ἐπὶ Λέοντος, τοῦ φιλοχρίστου δεσπότου, ἀπὸ τοῦ θέματος τῶν Βουκελλαρίων εἰς τὸ θέμα Χαρσιανοῦ μετετέθησαν ταῦτα τὰ βάνδα, ἤτοι ἡ τοποτηρησία τοῦ Μυριοκεφάλου, ἡ τοποτηρησία τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ καὶ ἡ τοποτηρησία Βερινουπόλεως, καὶ ἐγένοντο τοῦρμα ἡ νῦν Σανίανα λεγομένη. Καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ θέματος τῶν Ἀρμενιάκων εἰς τὸ τοῦ Χαρσιανοῦ θέμα μετετέθησαν ταῦτα τὰ βάνδα, ἤτοι ἡ τοῦ Κωμοδρόμου τοποτηρησία, ἡ τοποτηρησία Τάβιας, καὶ εἰς τὴν τοῦρμαν τοῦ Χαρσιανοῦ τὴν εἰρημένην προσετέθησαν.”

Moravcsik G. – Jenkins, R. J. H. (ed.), *Constantine Porphyrogenitus*, *De Administrando Imperio* (Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae 1, Washington, D.C. 1967), 50, 101-108.

The Paulician sovereign Sergios Tychikos is descended from the area of Tabia

“Μετ’ οὐ πολὺ δὲ χρόνον καὶ ἕτερός τις ἀναδείκνυται τῆς ἀληθείας ἀντίπαλος, ἐκ τῶν μερῶν Ταβίας τῆς πόλεως. Ἔστι γὰρ ἐκεῖσε πλησιάζουσα κώμη, Ἀννία καλουμένη, ἐν ᾗ κατῴκει ἀνήρ τις, Δρύϊνος ὀνομαζόμενος. Οὗτος ἔσχεν υἱόν, Σέργιον καλούμενον, τὸν τοῦ διαβόλου ὑπέρμαχον…”

Peter Siceliota, *Historia*, Astruc, Ch. (ed.), “Les sources grecques pour l’histoire des Pauliciens d’Asie Mineure”, *Travaux et Mémoires* 4 (1970), 51, 28 - 53, 13.

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Chronological Table

399: Tabia is incorporated into the province of Galatia I

late 7th c.: Tabia is incorporated into the theme of Armeniakon

between 886-912: The territory of Tabia is included in the theme of Charsianon

late 11th c.: The Türkmen are settled in the area of Tabia

12th c.: The area of Tabia is captured by the Seljuks

late 14th c: Tabia becomes an Ottoman possession