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| **List of the themes between c. 660 and 930** |
| This list includes the large "traditional" themes established in the period from the inception of the theme system in c. 660 to the beginning of the great conquests in c. 930 and the creation of the new, smaller themes. |
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| **Theme (name in Greek)** | **Date** | **Established from** | **Later divisions** | **Capital** | **Original territory** | **Other cities** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Aegean Sea**(*thema Aigaiou Pelàgous*, Θέμα τοῦ Αἰγαίου Πελάγους) | by 842/843 | Cibyrrhaeots, raised from independent droungariate |  | possibly Mytilene or Methymna | Lesbos, Lemnos, Chios, Imbros, Tenedos, Hellespont, Sporades and Cyclades | Methymna, Mytilene, Chios, Alexandria Troas, Abydos, Lampsakos, Cyzicus, Sestos, Callipolis |
| **Anatolics**(*thema Anatolikōn*, Θέμα των Ἀνατολικῶν) | by 669/670 | Former Field Army of the East/Syria | Cappadocia (830) | Amorium | Phrygia, Pisidia, Isauria | Iconium, Polybotos, Philomelion, Akroinon, Synnada, Sozopolis, Thebasa, Antiochia, Derbe, Laranda, Isaura, Pessinus |
| **Armeniacs**(*thema Armeniakōn*, *Armeniakoi*, Θέμα τῶν Ἀρμενιακῶν) | by 667/668 | Former Field Army of Armenia | Chaldia (by 842), Charsianon§ (863), Koloneia (863), Paphlagonia (by 826) | Amasea | Pontus, Armenia Minor, northern Cappadocia | Sinope, Amisus, Euchaita, Comana Pontica |
| **Bucellarians**(*thema Boukellarion*, *Boukellàrioi*, Θέμα τῶν Βουκελλαρίων) | by 767/768 | Opsikion | Paphlagonia (in part), Cappadocia (in part), Charsianon (in part) | Ancyra | Galatia, Paphlagonia | Tios, Heraclea Pontica, Claudiopolis, Cratea, Iuliopolis, Lagania, Gordion |
| **Cappadocia**(*thema Kappadokias*, Θέμα Καππαδοκίας) | by 830 | Armeniacs, part of the Bucellarians |  | Koron Fortress, later Tyana | SW Cappadocia | Podandus, Nyssa, Loulon Fortress, Tyana, Nazianzus, Heraclea Cybistra |
| **Cephallenia**(*thema Kephallēnias*, Θέμα Κεφαλληνίας) | by 809 |  | Langobardia (by 910), ?Nicopolis (by 899) | Cephallenia | Ionian Islands, Apulia | Corfu, Zakynthos, Leucate |
| **Chaldia**(*thema Chaldias*, Θέμα Χαλδίας) | c. 840 | Armeniacs (originally a *tourma*) | Duchy of Chaldia | Trebizond | Pontic coast | Rhizus, Cerasous, Polemonion, Paiperta |
| **Charsianon**(*thema Charsianoù*, Θέμα Χαρσιανοῦ) | 863–873 | Armeniacs (originally a *tourma*), part of the Bucellarians |  | Caesarea | NW Cappadocia | Charsianon |
| **Cherson**/**Klimata**(*thema Chersōnos*/*Klimata*, Θέμα Χερσῶνος/τὰ Κλίματα) | 833 | ruled by the Khazars in the 8th century, Byz. rule rest. by Theophilos |  | Cherson | South Crimea | Sougdea, Theodosia, Bosporos, Galita |
| **Cibyrrhaeots**(*thema Kibyrrhaiotōn*, *Kibyrrhaiotai*, Θέμα τῶν Κυβυρραιωτῶν) | by 697/698 or c. 720 | Created from the *Karabisianoi* fleet | Aegean Sea, Samos, Seleucia | Samos, later Attaleia | Pamphylia, Lycia, Dodecanese, Aegean Islands, Ionian coast | Rhodes, Myra, Cibyrrha, Limyra, Phaselis, Side, Selinus, Anemurium, Sagalassus, Telmissus, Patara, Halicarnassus, Iassus, Mylasa, Selge, Cnidus, Kos |
| **Crete**(*thema Krētēs*, Θέμα Κρήτης) | by 767 (?), again in 961 | Arab emirate from c. 828 until Byz. reconquest in 961 |  | Chandax | Crete | Rethymnon, Gortys |
| **Dalmatia**(*thema Dalmatias*, Θέμα Δαλματίας) | by 899 | New territory |  | Idassa/Iadera | Coast of Dalmatia | Ragousa, Aspalathos, Polae, Tragyrion, Scardona |
| **Dyrrhachium**(*thema Dyrrhachiou*, Θέμα Δυρραχίου) | by 842 | New territory |  | Dyrrhachium | Illyria, Albanian coast | Aulon, Apollonia, Lissos |
| **Hellas**(*thema Hellàdos*, *Helladikoi*, Θέμα τῆς Ἑλλάδος/Ἑλλαδικῶν) | c. 690 | *Karabisianoi* | Cephallenia (by 809), Peloponnese (by 811) | Corinth, later Thebes (after 809) | Initially E. Peloponnese and Attica, after 809 eastern Central Greece and Thessaly | (after 809) Athens, Larissa, Pharsala, Lamia, Thermopylae, Plataeae, Euripus, Demetrias, Stagoi |
| **Koloneia**(*thema Kolōneias*, Θέμα Κολωνείας) | by 863, probably c. 842 | Armeniacs, *kleisoura* by early 9th century | Duchy of Chaldia | Koloneia | North Armenia Minor | Satala, Nicopolis, Neocaesarea |
| **Longobardia**(*thema Longobardias*, Θέμα Λογγοβαρδίας) | by 892 | Cephallenia (originally a *tourma*) |  | Barion | Apulia, Lucania | Tarantas, Brindesion, Hydrus, Callipolis |
| **Lykandos**(*thema Lykàndou*, Θέμα Λυκάνδου) | by 916 | New territory |  | Lykandos Fortress | SE Cappadocia | Arabissos, Cocyssos, Comana |
| **Macedonia**(*thema Makedonias*, Θέμα Μακεδονίας) | by 802 | Thrace | Strymon | Adrianopolis | Western Thrace | Didymoteicho, Mosynopolis, Aenos, Maronia |
| **Mesopotamia**(*thema Mesopotamias*, Θέμα Μεσοποταμίας) | by 899-911 | New territory | Duchy of Mesopotamia | Kamacha[ | Upper Euphratesia |  |
| **Nicopolis**(*thema Nikopoleōs*, Θέμα Νικοπόλεως) | by 899 | probably raised from *tourma* of the Peloponnese |  | Naupaktos | Epirus, Aetolia, Acarnania | Ioannina, Buthrotum, Rogoi, Dryinoupolis, Nicopolis, Himarra |
| **Opsikion**(*Thema of Opsikion*, Θέμα τοῦ Ὀψικίου) | by 680 | Imperial Praesental Armies | Bucellarians (by 768), Optimates (by 775) | Nicaea | Mysia, Northern Phrygia, Western Bithynia | Prussa, Kios, Malagina, Dorylaion, Nakoleia, Krasos, Kotyaion, Midaeum |
| **Optimates**(*thema Optimàtōn*, *Optimatoi*, Θέμα τῶν Ὀπτιμάτων) | by 775 | Opsicians |  | Nicomedia | Bithynia opposite Constantinople | Chalcedon, Chrysopolis |
| **Paphlagonia**(*thema Paphlagonias*, Θέμα Παφλαγονίας) | by 826, prob. c. 820 | Armeniacs, Bucellarians (in part) |  | Gangra | Paphlagonia | Amastris, Ionopolis, Kastamonè, Pompeiopolis |
| **Peloponnese**(*thema Peloponnēsou*, Θέμα Πελοποννήσου) | by 811 | Hellas in part, in part new territory | ?Nicopolis (by 899) | Corinth | Peloponnese | Patrae, Argos, Lacedaemon, Korinthos, Helos, Methòne, Elis, Monemvasia |
| **Phasiane (Derzene)**(*thema Phasianēs/Derzēnēs*, Θέμα Φασιανῆς/Δερζηνῆς) | by 935 | New territory and Theme of Mesopotamia | Duchy of Mesopotamia | Arsamosata | source of Aras |  |
| **Samos**(*thema Samou*, Θέμα Σάμου) | by 899 | Cibyrrhaeots, raised from independent drungariate of the Gulf |  | Smyrna | Southeastern Aegean islands, Ionian coast (shared with Thracesians) | Samos, Ephesos, Miletus, Magnesia, Tralles, Lebedos, Teos, Clazomenae, Phocaea, Pergamon, Adramyttion |
| **Sebasteia**(*thema Sebasteias*, Θέμα Σεβαστείας) | by 911 | Armeniacs, *kleisoura* by c. 900 |  | Sebasteia | NE Cappadocia and Armenia Minor | Dazimon |
| **Seleucia**§(*thema Seleukeias*, Θέμα Σελευκείας) | by 934 | Cibyrrhaeots, from early 9th century a *kleisoura* |  | Seleucia | Western Cilicia | Claudiopolis |
| **Sicily**(*thema Sikelias*, Θέμα Σικελίας) | by 700 |  | Calabria (remaining territory after Muslim conquest of Sicily) | Syracuse | Sicily and Calabria | Katàne, Tavromènion, Panormos, Akragas, Leontini, Himera, Mazzara, Lilybaeum, Drepanum |
| **Strymon**(*thema Strymōnos*, Θέμα Στρυμῶνος) | by 899, probably 840s | Macedonia, raised from *kleisoura* (709) |  | Neapolis | roughly modern Greek Eastern Macedonia | Serres |
| **Thessalonica**(*thema Thessalonikēs*, Θέμα Θεσσαλονίκης) | by 824 |  |  | Thessalonica | roughly modern Greek Central Macedonia | Beroia, Edessa, Dion, Ierissos, Moglena, Diocletianopolis, Servia |
| **Thrace**(*thema Thrakēs*, Θέμα Θράκης/Θρᾳκῷον) | by 680 | ?Opsicians | Macedonia | Arcadiopolis | Eastern Thrace, except Constantinople | Selymbria, Bizye, Perinthus, Rhaedestus |
| **Thracesians**(*thema Thrakēsiōn*, *Thrakēsioi*, Θέμα Θρᾳκησίων) | by 687 | Former Field Army of Thrace |  | Chonae | Lydia, Ionia | Hierapolis, Sardeis, Thyatira, Laodikea |

**Notes:**† naval theme (in Greek *thema nautikon*, θέμα ναυτικόν)§ Originally established as a *kleisoura* |
| **List of new themes, 930s–1060s** |
| These were the new major or minor themes (provinces), established during the Byzantine conquests, in the East (the so-called "Armenian" themes or generalships, *strategiai*), in Italy and in the Balkans. |
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| **Theme (name in Greek)** | **Date** | **Capital** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Artze**(Ἄρτζε) | 970s | Artze | A minor theme attested in the *Escorial Taktikon*. Ceded to David III of Tao in 979, recovered after David's death in 1000 and subordinated to the catepanate of Iberia. The town was destroyed by the Turks in 1049.  |
| **Asmosaton**(Ἀσμόσατον) | c. 938 | Asmosaton | A minor theme, it survived until conquered by the Turks in the 1050s.  |
| **Boleron/Neos Strymon**(*thema Voleroù/Nèou Strymōnos*, Θέμα Βολεροῦ/Νέου Στρυμῶνος) | 970s | Serres |  |
| **Bulgaria**(*thema Boulgarias*, Θέμα Βουλγαρίας) | 1018 | Scupi | established by Emperor Basil II after the victory over Samuel of Bulgaria and the fall of the First Bulgarian Empire in 1018. It was based on the wider regions of Skopje and Ohrid (modern North Macedonia and south Serbia). |
| **Calabria**(*thema Kalavrias*, Θέμα Καλαβρίας) | c. 950 | Rhegion | Following the Muslim conquest of Sicily, from 902 the Theme of Sicily was limited to Calabria, but retained its original name until the middle of the 10th century |
| **Charpezikion**(Χαρπεζίκιον) | 949 | Charpezikion | A minor theme.  |
| **Chavzizin**(Χαυζίζιον) | after 940 | Chavzizin | A minor theme covering the area of the Bingöl Dağ mountains.  |
| **Chozanon**(Χόζανον) | before 956, possibly 948/952 | Chozanon | An "Armenian theme". |
| **Cyprus**(*thema Kyprou*, Θέμα Κύπρου) | 965 | Leukosia | Byzantine-Arab condominium from 688 until the definite Byzantine reconquest in 965. |
| **Derzene**(Δερζηνῆ) | 948/952 | Chozanon | A minor theme, the administration of Derzene was often entrusted to officials of the theme of Chaldia.  |
| **Edessa**(*thema Edēssēs*, Θέμα Ἐδέσσης) | 1032 | Edessa | Captured by George Maniakes in 1032, it became seat of a *strategos*, later a *doux*, until conquered by the Turks in 1086.  |
| **Euphrates Cities**(Παρευφρατίδαι Πόλεις) | c. 1032 |  | Minor theme.  |
| **Hexakomia** or **Hexapolis**(Ἑξακωμία/Ἑξάπολις) | 970s |  | Minor theme, its name means "six villages/cities", a region between Lykandos and Melitene. It apparently was also an episcopal see.  |
| **Iberia**(θέμα Ἰβηρίας) | c. 1001 or c. 1023 | Theodosiopolis | Formed out of the territories of David III of Tao–Tayk, which he bequeathed to Basil II. The date of establishment is disputed among scholars. United with Ani in 1045 and with Kars in 1064.  |
| **Kama**(Κάμα) | 970s |  | Minor theme attested only in the *Escorial Tactikon*, location uncertain.  |
| **Lucania**(*thema Leukanias*, Θέμα Λευκανίας) | 968 | Tursi |  |
| **Manzikert**(Ματζικέρτ) | 1000 | Manzikert | Part of the territories inherited from David III of Tao, it was the seat of a *strategos*, later probably a subordinate of the *doux* of Vaspurakan.  |
| **Melitene**(Μελιτηνή) | 970s | Melitene | Became an imperial curatorship (*kouratoreia*) after conquered by John Kourkouas in 934.  |
| **Paristrion/Paradounavon**(*thema Paristriou/Paradoùnavon*, Θέμα Παριστρίου/Παραδούναβον) | 1020 | Dorostrolon |  |
| **Samosata**(Σαμόσατα) | 958 | Samosata | Became the seat of a *strategos* after the Byzantine conquest in 958.  |
| **Sirmium**(*thema Sirmiou*, Θέμα Σιρμίου) | 1018 | Sirmium | Established in 1018 at the northwestern part of the Bulgarian Empire (Syrmia) |
| **Tarantas**(Τάραντας) | 970s | Tarantas | Minor theme attested only in the *Escorial Taktikon*.  |
| **Taron**(Ταρών) | 966/7 |  | A dependency of the Empire since the early 10th century, the region of Taron became a theme in 966/7 and remained a Byzantine province until lost to the Turks after Manzikert.  |
| **Tephrike/Leontokome**(*thema Tephrikēs/Leontokōmēs*, Θέμα Τεφρικῆς/Λεωντοκώμης) | 934/944 | Tephrike | Formed as a *kleisoura* after the Byzantine reconquest of the Paulician principality of Tephrike, renamed Leontokome under Leo VI the Wise, became a theme in the 930s.  |
| **Theodosiopolis**(Θεοδοσιούπολις) | 949, again in 1000 | Theodosiopolis | Formed as a theme after the Byzantine conquest in 949, ceded to David III of Tao in 979, recovered in 1000, it became the capital of the theme of Iberia. |
| **Vaasprakania**(Βαασπρακανία) | 1021/2 |  | Established when Seneqerim-Hovhannes, king of Vaspurakan, ceded his realm to the Empire. Governed by a *doux*/*katepano* at Van, it lasted until overrun by the Turks after 1071.  |

**Later themes, 12th–13th centuries** |
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| Theme (name in Greek) | Date | Capital | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Maiandros** | after 1204 |  | a minor theme of the Nicaean period, which eventually became part of the southern Thracesian theme.  |
| **Mylasa and Melanoudion** | 1143 |  | a minor theme comprising the territories in Asia Minor south of the Maeander valley, created from parts of the Cibyrrhaeot and Thracesian themes. Its existence continued under the Nicaean Empire.  |
| **Neokastra** | between 1162 and 1173 |  | created from the northern Thracesian theme as part of Manuel Komnenos reorganization of the Asiatic frontier. Its existence continued under the Nicaean Empire |

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| **Compiler FLN** |