

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2021 Texts-in-Translation Master Class

Lazarus Rising: The Tenth Century Byzantine Military Renaissance

During the tenth century A.D. the Byzantine Empire -- the Eastern Roman Empire in its medieval form -- underwent a period of rapid expansion. How were the Byzantines able to accomplish this? Let's find out together in this reading group! We will examine the structural changes and reforms that transformed the Byzantine army during this period -- helpfully collected by the soldier emperor Nikephoros Phokas and his successors into a series of military manuals -- together as we search for an answer to this question. Astound your friends as you critique the next Hollywood battle sequence for its flawed tactics (looking at you, Game of Thrones...) as we learn Byzantine military tactics and strategies, both on paper and in actual historical practice. Join me on a tour of the Byzantine military art - no prior knowledge required.

Your SASA Educational Ambassador:

James Gilmer, MLIS
Adjunct Professor of Classics at Ohio University Lancaster
james.gilmer@ohio.edu
Twitter: @ByzantineMage
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/byzantine-mage/>



Date:

Friday, August 27th @ 6:00 pm EDT

Location: (Provided by SASA)

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84169912560?pwd=UnFSTVNCamF4WlFUZENtNnZTRWJwdz09>

Zoom Meeting ID

841 6991 2560

Zoom Meeting Password

580456

Links to Readings:

Military Manuals: Tactics in Theory

- Leo VI “the Wise,” *Taktika*: Selections
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NRx1NmP4JLs4_PXs6nVWKz2RV5RPhG4V/view?usp=sharing
- Nikephoros Phokas, *De Velitatione Bellica*: Selections
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10pJHmsPpQPjZmaYltCtntRk293s7x8FD/view?usp=sharing>
- Nikephoros Phokas, *Praecepta Militaria*: Selections
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oK1OzpED1GChUrLLCQTaT3UMyqPzldl0/view?usp=sharing>

Chronicles: Tactics in Practice: *** Be sure to read the military manuals first, as this will guide you as you read through the chronicles!

- John Skylitzes, *Synopsis Historion*: Selections
 - XII.4, pg. 240 - 241; XV.5 - 6, pg. 275 - 278; XV.15 - 18, pg. 291 - 293 [9 pages]
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OS7HLoUHwNY9dIlolEruhtz7K7F_0zpr/view?usp=sharing
 - *Continuatus*, VII.3 - 6, pg. 178 - 185 [4 pages]
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1doBjf-qEDDf72I7C0f-HgMskdb9KmC5P/view?usp=sharing>
- Leo the Deacon: *History*: Selections
 - II.1 - 5, pg. 70 - 75; VI.12 - 13, pg. 158 - 160; IX.8 - 10, pg. 196 - 198 [12 pages]
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m1IAEL0SGM9wIBMCMn6e-ARa38kPTWd1/view?usp=sharing>
- Michael Attaleiates, *History*: Selections
 - XX.10 - 16, pg. 273 - 283; XX.19 - 25, pg. 287 - 299; XXXIV.4 - XXXIV.6, pg. 525 - 531; XXXV.4 - 7, pg. 543 - 547 [20 pages]
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dglq5RuF0aeSd9Kca0mfnu95czlqL9gl/view?usp=sharing>
- Nikephoros Bryennios, *Hyle Historias*: Selections
 - Roussel’s Rebellion:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q7ISWRVkfQ0BaWCeps8KuWUVI2b9OvGj/view?usp=sharing> [13 pages]
 - Bryennios’ Rebellion:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fEV6NHUu4YFQVPFbPppXJeXv9bgbZTD/view?usp=sharing> [19 pages]
 - Basilakes’ Rebellion: [13 pages]
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E54wxqPfaAR07pxiQXRINxcN_luuDGaK/view?usp=sharing
- Anna Komnene, *Alexiad*:
 - V.5 - 6, pg. 142 - 144; XV.4 - 6, pg. 443 - 447 [8 pages]
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C9Zh99bXyn9UGh43corjl0Nq5Ab468aJ/view?usp=sharing>