



## The Byzantine Province in Change (On the Threshold Between the 10th and the 11th Century).

Bojana Krsmanović

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Author: Bojana Krsmanović

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### Book Description

The changes in the Byzantine administration were closely tied to the reform of the Byzantine high command that began as early as the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century. These changes led to the limitation of the competences of the *domestikos ton Scholon* and the establishment of rival positions *stratopedarches* and *stratelates*. The limitation of the competences held by military functionaries was also reflected in provincial administration. At the first level, the territorial competences of all thematic *strategoï* were limited, which in turn caused this function to lose some of its importance. At the second level, new provincial functionaries – *doukes* and *katepano* – were introduced in some parts of the Empire. Among others, their role in the provincial administration included working towards a stronger centralization of power in the vast borderlands, where numerous small themes headed by the *strategoï* were located. In the eastern parts of the Empire, the *doukes* and *katepano* were stationed in border regions; in the Balkans, they retreated inland, into areas with a more developed system of thema-fortresses. The reform of the high command and the provincial administration paved the way for the affirmation of the representatives of civil authorities in the Byzantine provinces in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

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