

## Summary of doctoral dissertation

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East roman *magistri militum* from 395 to 527 AD. A Prosopographic Study.

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The Masters of the soldiers were in the late Roman Empire the most important commanders in the army. They commanded imperial field armies: two *in praesenti* which had headquarters near Constantinople and also Illyrian, Thracian and Eastern armies. The main goal of this dissertation is to analyze the composition of the group of the highest-rank officers of the early Byzantine army between 395 and 527 AD. This work is an attempt of prosopographical analysis of the biography of *magistri militum*. Among the 97 known masters of the soldiers from that period there were people as important for the fate of Eastern Empire people, as: Aspar, Zeno, Anatolius, Justinian, Alaric, Vitalianus or Theodoric Amal. The importance of the men who held the office of the *magistri militum*, for the political and military history of the 5th century, was enormous. After the death of Theodosius I the majority of campaigns conducted in the 5th century was under the command of masters of the soldiers. *Magistri militum* belonged also to the group of officials, to whom successive emperors conceded frequently the most honorable titles in late Roman Empire, those of consul and patrician. Examining who were the masters of the Soldiers allows to determine how the successive rulers of Constantinople created or at least tried to create their "generals".

This dissertation consists of three main parts. The first part presents the organization of the late Roman army after Diocletian and Constantine reforms as well as the circumstances in which the office of Master of the soldiers was established in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century. Subsequently I discuss the development of this office in the fourth century, and its competences. The second largest part of the dissertation consists of 97 biograms of the east roman masters of the soldiers from the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The third part, is a prosopographic analysis of the available data about the people holding the office of the master of the soldiers. In this part a descriptive-statistical method has been applied, providing most important data about the sociological features (origin, family relationships, religion) and *cursus honorum* of the east Roman commanders of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

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