

**Paradunavum:** See "Dristra"

**Paralia** (or "Seacoasts"): Theme - Formed around 970 on the Gallipoli Peninsula from part of the Macedonia Theme; size unknown (presumably small)

**Peloponnesus:** Theme - Formed in 809 in newly recovered territory; was at least partly a maritime Theme (no cavalry). Had 2,000 men from 809

**Phargani:** Guards - About 200 men made up half of the Third Bn of the Vasilike Hetaeria (q.v.) by 855

**Philippopolis:** Theme - Formed in 1000 in east Bulgaria with 1,000 men

**Pliska:** Theme - Formed in 1000 in east Bulgaria with 1,000 men

**Podandus:** Theme - Formed in 970 from part of Cappadocia Theme with probably 800 men

**Preslav:** See "Great" and "Little" Preslav

**Ras:** Theme - Formed in 970 from territory conquered from Bulgaria; the title derived from "Rascia", a major Serb state in the area. The Theme was soon destroyed when the revived Bulgarian state reconquered the area. In 1018 the territory again came under Roman control, but Basil II did not re-establish a Theme here; he left Rascia under the control of Serbian client princes

**Romanopolis:** Theme - Formed in 970 from part of Mesopotamia Theme; had 800 men

**Samos:** Maritime Theme - Formed around 882 from part of the Aegean Sea Theme; had 600 marines and 3,980 oarsmen in 899

**Sardinia:** Theme - Formed in 698 when it was necessary to defend the island against inroads of Arabs who had just conquered Africa; size unknown; around 720 the Empire lost effective control of the island, although still nominally sovereign

**Scholae:** Guards/Tagma - Formed around 450 by merging the older Scholae units (see the Notitia Dignitatum under "Roman Empire") into one; the old Scholae had been elite cavalry units; the combined unit of 450 was mainly a ceremonial force; under Justinian I they had about 3,500 part-time decorative soldiers. Around 750 the Scholae again became an elite combat cavalry Regt; from at least 773 had about 4,000 men; in 959 reorganized and expanded into Eastern and Western Commands, each with 3,000. In 1071 both contingents fought at Manzikert and were wiped out

"**Seacoasts**": See "Paralia"

**Sebastea:** Cleisura/Theme - Created on the eastern frontier as a Cleisura of 400 men, but very soon (in 902) became a Theme of 2,000. Reduced in size around 970 when men went to the smaller themes being created on the new frontier farther east

**Seleucia:** Cleisura/Theme - Formed in 840 as a Cleisura to guard the border region of the Anatolic Theme; however, was always a substantial force of 5,000 men and was soon (?), though at an unknown date, upgraded as an independent Theme

**Serbia** (area in today's north Greece!): Theme - Formed in 1018 with about 1,000 men

**Sicily:** Theme - Formed around 699 from the remnants of the Army of Italy which had taken refuge on the island; its role was to guard against the Arabs who had just conquered Africa; had about 2,000 men. Engaged through the 9th century in a long and stubborn but ultimately