

= Constantine Diogenes =

Constantine Diogenes (Greek : ?????????????? ?????????? ; died 1032) was a prominent Byzantine general of the early 11th century , active in the Balkans . He served with distinction in the final stages of the Byzantine conquest of Bulgaria under Emperor Basil II , and occupied high commands in the Balkans until his arrest in 1029 , as the result of his participation in a conspiracy against Emperor Romanos III Argyros . Imprisoned and forced to enter a monastery , he committed suicide in 1032 during an inquest on a further conspiracy . He was the father of Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes .

= = Biography = =

Constantine Diogenes is the first notable member of the noble Cappadocian Diogenes family , which played an important role in 11th @-@ century Byzantium . Diogenes began his career as a commander of one of the western tagmata during the reign of Basil II (r . 976 ? 1025) , in the latter 's campaigns against Bulgaria . In 1014 , he participated in the decisive Byzantine victory at the Battle of Kleidion (July 29) , and he subsequently succeeded Theophylact Botaneiates as commander (doux) of Thessalonica with the rank of patrikios , making him the second @-@ most senior general of the Empire in the Balkans after David Arianites . Following the death of Tsar Samuel of Bulgaria in October , Diogenes and Nikephoros Xiphias were dispatched to the region of Moglena as the vanguard of the emperor and the main army . During this campaign , Diogenes constructed the fortress of Mylobos , as attested in a founder 's inscription .

The conquest of Moglena was completed in 1015 or 1016 . In 1017 , Diogenes and David Arianites led troops to plunder the fertile plain of Pelagonia , where they captured many prisoners and livestock . Soon after , Basil II placed Diogenes in charge of the tagmata of the Scholai of the West and of Thessalonica , and tasked him with pursuing Tsar Ivan Vladislav . The Bulgarian ruler set up an ambush for his pursuers , but Basil was informed in time , and led the rest of his troops to Diogenes ' aid , scattering the Bulgarians .

After Ivan Vladislav 's death in February 1018 , Diogenes was charged with mopping up the last remaining centres of Bulgarian resistance . He took Sirmium and was named its commander (archon) ; his authority extended over the vassal Serbian statelets of Ra?ka . His title was possibly that of " strategos of Serbia " (Greek : ?????????? ??????????) , which is attested in a seal attributed to him . Diogenes was ordered by Basil II to subdue Sermon , the ruler of Sirmium , to consolidate Byzantine control of the northern Balkans . Consequently , Diogenes invited Sermon to a meeting at the estuary of the river Sava in the Danube , where each would only be accompanied by three attendants . Diogenes had hidden his sword in the folds of his clothes , and struck Sermon down . He then marched his army into Sirmium , taking possession of the town . Sermon 's wife was sent as a captive to Constantinople .

Around 1022 or 1025 , Diogenes succeeded Arianites as overall Byzantine commander (strategos autokrator) of conquered Bulgaria . In this capacity , he repelled a large Pecheneg invasion in 1027 . The same year , he was withdrawn south to Thessalonica but retained , at least nominally , his role as overall commander , as attested by another seal naming him " anthypatos , patrikios and doux of Thessalonica , Bulgaria and Serbia " .

Diogenes had been married to an anonymous daughter of Basil Argyros , brother of Emperor Romanos III Argyros (r . 1028 ? 1034) , but in 1029 he was accused , along with other prominent Balkan generals such as Eustathios Daphnomeles , of conspiring against the emperor with the porphyrogenete princess Theodora . He was transferred east as strategos of the Thracasian Theme but , as soon as his complicity in the affair was confirmed , was recalled to Constantinople . There he was imprisoned , beaten and publicly paraded in the Mese along with the other conspirators , and later tonsured and forced to enter the Stoudios Monastery . Theodora herself was placed in a convent , but she apparently continued to conspire with Diogenes , who planned to take advantage of Romanos 's absence on campaign in the East in 1032 to escape to the Balkans . The plot was leaked to Romanos by Theophanes , metropolitan of Thessalonica , and the conspirators

were arrested . Diogenes was brought to the Palace of Blachernae for interrogation by John the Orphanotrophos , but he committed suicide , throwing himself off a wall , rather than confess under torture and implicate his fellow conspirators .

Constantine 's son Romanos Diogenes became a successful general and eventually rose to become emperor in 1068 ? 71 .