

= Theodore Synadenos =

Theodore Komnenos Doukas Palaiologos Synadenos (Greek : ????????? ????????? ????????????????????????????????????? , ca . 1277 ? ca . 1346) , usually simply Theodore Synadenos , was a Byzantine magnate , senior official and military leader of the early 14th century , who played an important role in the civil wars of the period . The scion of a noble lineage , he became one of the first and most prominent supporters of Andronikos III Palaiologos in his struggle against his grandfather Andronikos II . Synadenos held various provincial governorships during Andronikos III 's reign , including Epirus and Thessalonica . After the outbreak of the civil war of 1341 ? 1347 , he tried to surrender Thessalonica to his old friend John Kantakouzenos , but was driven from the city by the Zealots of Thessalonica . Forced to join Kantakouzenos 's enemies , he was initially honoured with the high rank of protovestiarios but soon placed under house arrest in Constantinople , where he died impoverished in 1345 or 1346 .

= = Biography = =

Theodore Synadenos was a son of the megas stratopedarches John Synadenos and Theodora Palaiologina , the niece of Emperor Michael VIII Palaiologos (r . 1259 ? 1282) , and hence a member of the Byzantine Empire 's highest aristocracy . He had a probably older brother also named John , and at least one sister , Euphrosyne . Little is known about his early life : he was born circa 1277 , apparently at Bizye on the Black Sea coast of Thrace , where he had a palatial residence , extensive estates and many friends and relatives .

= = Under Andronikos III = =

Synadenos enters the historical record in 1321 , when he held the lowly title of domestikos tes trapezes (steward of the imperial table) , and is recorded as a close friend to his cousin , the junior emperor Michael IX Palaiologos . After Michael 's death , Synadenos became one of the earliest and most important adherents of Michael IX 's son , the young Andronikos III (r . 1328 ? 1341) . Andronikos had been disinherited by the old emperor , Andronikos II (r . 1282 ? 1328) , after Michael 's death . Along with the fellow aristocrats John Kantakouzenos and Syrgiannes Palaiologos , Theodore formed the leading " triumvirate " of the younger Andronikos 's supporters , to which the " new man " Alexios Apokaukos attached himself as a junior member . The old emperor , distrusting Synadenos ' loyalty , named him governor of Prilep , on the border with Serbia . Instead of departing for his assignment , on the night of Easter (19 ? 20 April 1321) , Synadenos , along with the younger Andronikos and Kantakouzenos , escaped Constantinople to begin an armed uprising against Andronikos II .

In the first round of the civil war between grandfather and grandson , Andronikos III was successful in getting recognition for himself as junior emperor , with Thrace as his personal appanage . Throughout the conflict , Synadenos was among the most radical and uncompromising supporters of the younger Andronikos , favouring the eventual deposition of Andronikos II . During the course of the war , Synadenos defeated loyalist forces under Constantine Asen , and in the final round of the civil war , in 1327 ? 28 , he served as governor in Thrace . As more and more localities , including the Empire 's second @-@ most important city , Thessalonica , switched over to Andronikos III 's camp , Synadenos along with Kantakouzenos urged Andronikos III to march on Constantinople and depose his grandfather outright . On the night of 13 May 1328 , the three men led their army through a gate after bribing its guard , taking possession of the imperial capital without resistance . Andronikos II was forced to resign the throne and retire to a monastery , with his grandson succeeding him as sole emperor . For his services , Synadenos was promoted to protostrator sometime during the civil war , perhaps as early as 1321 .

After the war , Theodore Synadenos was rewarded by being made governor of Constantinople , Apokaukos became head of the imperial secretariat , Kantakouzenos remained Andronikos III 's principal advisor as megas domestikos , and Syrgiannes was named governor of Thessalonica .

Around 1330 , Synadenos was sent as governor to Mesembria , while in 1336 , after Andronikos III and John Kantakouzenos annexed Epirus , he became its governor . In late 1338 , however , a revolt broke out in Epirus in favour of Nikephoros II Orsini , the last descendant of the Epirote ruling dynasty . Synadenos was taken captive in the capital , Arta by the rebels , and remained a prisoner until 1340 , when Andronikos III and Kantakouzenos campaigned against the rebels and recovered the region . John Angelos , a relative of Kantakouzenos , was installed as the new governor , while Synadenos was moved to the governorship of Thessalonica .

= = = Renewed civil war and death = = =

In June 1341 , Andronikos III died suddenly , and a power struggle developed between Kantakouzenos , who initially assumed the powers of regency over Andronikos 's underage son John V Palaiologos , and a powerful faction around the Patriarch John XIV Kalekas , the Empress @-@ dowager Anna of Savoy and Alexios Apokaukos on the other . The dispute soon developed in outright conflict when the Patriarch , the Empress , and Apokaukos replaced Kantakouzenos as regent and imprisoned his family and supporters . In response , Kantakouzenos proclaimed himself emperor at Didymoteichon in October . The news of Kantakouzenos 's proclamation sparked a wave of popular resistance across Macedonia and Thrace . The common people , impoverished by an exploitative and over @-@ powerful aristocracy , viewed Kantakouzenos as a representative of the hated aristocrats and rallied behind the legitimate Palaiologos line and one by one , the cities were seized in the name of the Constantinopolitan regency . Thessalonica at first remained tranquil , and Synadenos contacted his old friend Kantakouzenos with the intention of surrendering the city to him . Such a move might well prove decisive , as possession of Thessalonica would enable Kantakouzenos to control Macedonia , Thessaly and Epirus , and in March 1342 , he set out from Didymoteichon with his army in the direction of the city . Before he arrived there , however , Synadenos was overthrown and driven from the city by a rebellion led by a radical popular faction , the Zealots . Apokaukos with a fleet came to reinforce the new regime , and one of his sons was installed as its new governor .

Driven from Thessalonica , with Kantakouzenos 's cause seemingly in ruins ? he was soon forced to seek refuge in the court of the Serbian king , Stefan Dushan ? and with his family back in Constantinople in the regency 's hands , Synadenos made terms with Apokaukos . He was rewarded with the high rank of protovestiaros , but soon after placed under virtual house arrest in Constantinople . There he died , deprived of his court rank and considerable wealth , in late 1345 or early 1346 . A year later , in February 1347 , Kantakouzenos entered Constantinople as the victor of the civil war , which had left the Byzantine state in ruins : its human and military resources exhausted , over half of its territory lost , bankrupt and indebted to foreigners , with a war @-@ weary and unenthusiastic populace .

= = = Family = = =

Some time before 1320 , Theodore married Eudokia Doukaina Komnene Palaiologina Synadene , and had two daughters :

Theodora Komnene Doukaina Raoulaina Palaiologina , who probably married a member of the Raoul family .

Anna Komnene Doukaina Palaiologina Asanina , who married John Kantakouzenos ' brother @-@ in @-@ law , Manuel Asen .