

From a literal standpoint, "archistratege" appears to be the combination of two ancient Greek words: ἀρχι (archi), which means chief, first, or primary (as in archbishop or archangel); and στρατηγός (strategos) which means general or more literally, army leader. Thus, "archistratege" would mean "First General" or more euphemistically, "Supreme Commander." This title is consistent with Michael's role as leader of Heaven's armies.

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What is the meaning of archistratege](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_meaning_of_archistratege)

The Poetics of Slavdom: Part III: Njegoš

books.google.com/books?isbn=0820481351

Zdenko Zlatar - 2007 - Literary Criticism

16X The Slavonic Enoch [2En] also calls Michael **arhistratig**, which is a Slavicized version of the Greek archistrategos, i.e. the chief or supreme commander, ...

<http://books.google.com/books?id=ltRWy32dG7oC&pg=PA517&lpg=PA517&dq=%22Arhistratig%22+slavonic&source=bl&ots=fd2kxCeGih&sig=AhPwmRuqbktWBpwcsKy5MGRC77U&hl=en&sa=X&ei=OG2yU6LgAY2SyATJ9YDQBA&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Arhistratig%22%20slavonic&f=false>

Strategos

For the board game, see Stratego.

"Strategus" redirects here. For the genus of beetle, see Strategus (beetle).

Strategos, plural *strategoī*, (Greek: στρατηγός, pl. στρατηγοί; Doric Greek: στραταγός, *stratagos*; literally meaning "army leader") is used in Greek to mean military general. In the Hellenistic and Byzantine Empires the term was also used to describe a military governor. In the modern Hellenic Army it is the highest officer rank.

The office of *Strategos* in Classical Greece

Themistocles, Aristides and Cimon were early examples of *strategoī* who were politicians as well as generals. Pericles was a *strategos* very often throughout his career; from 443 until 429 BC. Cleon, Nicias and Alcibiades were also *strategoī*. But at the end of the 5th century, with the collapse of the military power of Athens, and later because of an increasing tendency to specialization, military office ceased to be a means of acquiring political influence.

Little is known of the number and method of appointment of Athenian *strategoī* in the 6th century, but in 501 BC, a new arrangement was introduced by which ten *strategoī* were elected annually, one from each phyle. The ten were of equal status: at Marathon in 490 (according to Herodotus) they decided strategy by majority vote, and each held the presidency in daily rotation. At this date the polemarchos had a casting vote, and one view is that he was the commander-in-chief; but from 486 onwards the polemarch, like other archontes, was appointed by lot.

The annual election of the *strategoī* was held in the spring, and their term of office coincided with the ordinary Athenian year, from midsummer to midsummer. If a *strategos* died or was dismissed from office, a by-election might be held to replace him. *Strategoī* commanded both from land and by sea. A particular military or naval expedition might have one *strategos* or several in command; rarely did all ten go together.

At home the *strategoī* were responsible for calling up citizens and metics for military service, and for organizing the maintenance and command of ships by the system of trierarchies. When a legal case arose from any of these matters, such as a prosecution for desertion or evasion of service, or a dispute over the duty to perform a trierarchy, the *strategoī* were the magistrates responsible for bringing the case to court and presiding over the trial.

In the 4th century a systematic division of duties was made: one *strategos* led the hoplites and one was in charge of the defense of Attica, two were in charge of the defense of Piraeus, and one supervised the trierarchy, leaving the remaining five available for other duties.

The Athenian people kept a close eye on their *strategoī*. Like other magistrates, at the end of their term of office they were subject to euthyna and in addition there was a vote in the ekklesia during every prytany on the question whether they were performing their duties well. If the vote went against anyone, he was deposed and as a rule tried by jury.



Bust of an unidentified *strategos* with Corinthian helmet; Hadrianic Roman copy of a Greek sculpture of c. 400 BC

Pericles himself in 430 was removed from office as *strategos* and fined, and in 406 the eight *strategoí* who commanded the fleet at Arginusae were all removed from office and condemned to death.

These arrangements illustrate one of the most striking features of Athenian democracy: reluctance to give power to individuals and fear that it might be abused.

Hellenistic and Roman use

Philip II of Macedon was elected as *strategos autokrator* (commander-in-chief with full powers) in the League of Corinth. Parmenion the Macedonian general also had the title of *strategos*.

In the Hellenistic empires of the Diadochi, notably Lagid Egypt, *strategos* became a gubernatorial office. In Egypt, a *strategos* presided over each of the country's nomes. In Egypt, the unique office and title of *epistrategos* (ἐπιστράτηγος, "over-general") was created in the early 2nd century BC, which survived intact into the Roman Empire. Two such existed, one for the *Chora* (Lower Egypt except for Alexandria) and one for the Thebaid, acting as viceroys controlling the subordinate *strategoí* of the nomes.

Under the Roman Republic and later through the Principate, Greek historians often used the term *strategos* when referring to the Roman political/military office of *praetor*. Such a use can be found in the *New Testament*: Acts 16:20 refers to the magistrates of Philippi as *strategoí* (στρατηγοί).^[1] Correspondingly, *antistrategos* ("vice-general") was used to refer to the office of *propraetor*.

The Odrysian kingdom of Thrace was also divided into *strategiai* ("generalships"), each headed by a *strategos*, based on the various Thracian tribes and subtribes. At the time of the kingdom's annexation into the Roman Empire in 46 AD, there were 50 such districts, which were initially retained in the new Roman province, and only gradually fell out of use. It was not until ca. 136 that the last of them were abolished.

Byzantine use

Further information: Byzantine aristocracy and bureaucracy

The term continued in use in the Greek-speaking Byzantine Empire. Initially, the term was used along with *stratelates* and, less often, *stratopedarches*, to render the supreme military office of *magister militum* (the general in command of a field army), but could also be employed for the regional *duces*. In the 7th century, with the creation of the Theme system, their role changed: as the field armies were resettled and became the basis for the territorial themes, their generals too assumed new responsibilities, combining their military duties with the civil governance of the theme. The first themes were few and very large, and in the 8th century, the provincial *strategoí* were in constant antagonism with the emperor at Constantinople, rising often in rebellion against him. In response, the themes were progressively split up and the number of *strategoí* increased, diluting their power. This process was furthered by the conquests of the 10th century, which saw the establishment of several new and smaller frontier themes: while in ca. 842 the *Taktikon Uspensky* lists 18 *strategoí*, the *Escorial Taktikon*, written ca. 971–975, lists almost 90.

Throughout the middle Byzantine period (7th–12th centuries), the *strategos* of the Anatolic theme enjoyed precedence over the others and constituted one of the highest offices of the state, and one of the few from which eunuchs were specifically barred. At the same time, the Eastern (Anatolian) themes were senior to the Western (European) ones. This distinction was especially marked in the pay of their presiding *strategoí*: while those of the Eastern themes received their salary directly from the state treasury, their counterparts in the West had to raise their—markedly lower—pay from the proceeds of their provinces. During the 11th century, the *strategoí* were gradually confined to their military duties, their fiscal and administrative responsibilities being taken over by the civil *kritai* ("judges"). Senior military leadership also devolved on the hands of a new class of officers titled *doukes* or *katepano*, who were placed in control of regional commands combining several themes. By the 13th century, the term *strategos* had reverted to the generic sense of "general", devoid of any specific technical meaning.

The Byzantines also used a number of variations of the title *strategos*: *strategetes* (στρατηγέτης, "army leader") was an infrequently used alternative term; the term *monostrategos* (μονοστράτηγος, "single-general") designated a general placed in command over other *strategoí* or over the forces of more than one theme; the terms *strategos autokrator*, *archistrategos* (ἀρχιστράτηγος, "chief-general") and *protostrategos* (πρωτοστράτηγος, "first-general") designated commanders vested with supreme authority; and the term *hypostrategos* (ὑποστράτηγος, "under-general") denoted a second-in-command, effectively a lieutenant general.


Modern use

Further information: List of Hellenic Army generals

In the modern Hellenic Army, a *stratigós* (the spelling remains στρατηγός) is the highest officer rank. The superior rank of *stratárchis* (Field Marshal) existed under the monarchy, but has not been retained by the current Third Hellenic Republic. Under the monarchy, the rank of full *stratigós* in active service was reserved for the King and a few other members of the royal family, with very few retired career officers promoted to the rank as an honorary rank. In 1947, Alexander Papagos became the first career officer to hold the rank in active service. Since ca. 1970, the rank is held in active service by the Chief of the General Staff of National Defence, when he is an Army officer, and is granted to the retiring Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff.



All but one of the other Greek general officer ranks are derivations of this word: *antistrátigos* and *ypostrátigos*, for Lieutenant General and Major General, respectively. A Brigadier General however is called *taxiarchos*, after a *táxis* (in modern usage *taxiarchía*), which means brigade. The ranks of *antistrátigos* and *ypostrátigos* are also used by the Hellenic Police (and the Greek Gendarmerie before), the Greek Fire Service and the Cypriot National Guard, which lack the grade of full *stratigós*.

 <p>Greek commissioned officer ranks</p>									
NATO code:	OF-1	OF-2	OF-3	OF-4	OF-5	OF-6	OF-7	OF-8	OF-9
Navy:	Simaioforos & Anthypoploiarchos	Ypoploiarchos	Plotarchis	Antiploiarchos	Ploiarchos	Archiploiarchos	Yponavarchos	Antinavarchos	Navarchos
Army:	Anthypolochagos & Ypolochagos	Lochagos	Tagmatarchis	Antisyntagmatarchis	Syntagmatarchis	Taxiarchos	Ypostratigos	Antistratigos	Stratigos
Air Force:	Anthyposminagos & Yposminagos	Sminagos	Episminagos	Antisminarchos	Sminarchos	Taxiarchos Aeroporias	Ypopterarchos	Antipterarchos	Pterarchos

Fictional uses

This position was featured in Orson Scott Card's novel *Ender's Game*. In the novel, the position of Strategos was charged with overall command of solar system defense. The Strategos, along with the positions of Polemarch (responsible for the International Fleet of space warships), and the Hegemon (the political leader of Earth, rather like a stronger version of the Secretary-General of the United Nations), was one of the three most powerful people alive. During an earlier war described in the novel, because of a belief in their inherent luck and brilliance—specifically, that no Jewish general had ever lost a war—all three positions were filled with Jewish people: an American Jew as

Hegemon, an Israeli Jew as Strategos, and a Russian Jew as Polemarch. The defeat of the Formics by half-Māori Mazer Rackham changed this position. Bean (Julian Delphiki) was given the title of Strategos by Peter Wiggin after he assumed the role of Hegemon.

The dystopian slave-empire of the Draka, in the series of books by S. M. Stirling, also uses "Strategos" together with many other military ranks and terms drawn from Classical Antiquity, though often with only the loosest resemblance to what they originally meant.

The position of 'Strategos' was also featured in the English-language version of the Sunrise anime *The Vision of Escaflowne*; the character Folken occupied the position when he served the Zaibach empire.

The oldest use of the term *strategos* in fiction may be found in the "Callirhoe" of Chariton of Aphrodisias which is dated in the first century A.D. There, Hermocrates is the "strategos" of Syracuse and the father of Callirhoe, living in the 5th century B.C. In fact, he was a historical person, the victor over the Athenians in 413 B.C., an event which stopped Athenian expansion to the West. His role as a character in the novel is rather limited. Although his position in Syracuse gives Callirhoe a background, and he gives consent to her marriage and fulfills a few official duties, his legal or constitutional position is not very clear.

References

[1] 1881 Westcott-Hort New Testament, ΠΡΑΞΕΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ 16:20 (<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts 16:20;&version=68;>) και προσαγαγοντες αυτους τοις **στρατηγοις** ειπαν ουτοι οι ανθρωποι εκταρασσουσιν ημων την πολιν ιουδαιοι υπαρχοντες

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