When the Maltese army conquered Djerba in 1039

Simon Mercieca and Frans A. Cacace

If one were to analyse the naval movements that took place in the Mediterranean from the 9th to 11th centuries, it would be extremely difficult to believe that the island of Malta lost its importance for centuries. In the same way that we would find it hard to believe that the island of Malta was abandoned at the end of the 20th century, it would be extremely difficult to believe that the island of Malta was abandoned at the end of the 20th century. The Byzantine navy was again active at the turn of the 10th century, and after a few centuries during which it was defeated several times, the Arab fleet was back in the western part of the Mediterranean from the 10th century. This re-emergence of Malta as a military power during the 11th century was not due to the absence of the Byzantine fleet, but to the inability of the Arab fleet to resist the challenge of the Byzantine fleet. Therefore, in 1039, Malta was a base for the fleet of the Byzantine emperor. It was not a refu...