

Amari was certainly correct to assume that *Africa* could be used to refer to the geographical region. In the classical period, the term *Africa Proconsularis* was used to refer to a portion of the North African coast, comprising the territory of present-day Tunisia, the northeast of Algeria, and the coast of western Libya. Following the Muslim conquests of the seventh century, an area which roughly comprised this region came to be known as *Ifriqiya* in Arabic. This usage is reflected in the Latin chronicle evidence. In the twelfth century, Robert of Torigni (d. 1186) used *Affrica* to clarify the geographical location of Tripoli when he noted that: *rex Rogerius Siciliae Tripolitanam provinciam in Affrica super paganos cepit*⁷¹. Romuald of Salerno's (d. 1181/82) *Chronicon*⁷², Henry Aristippus' (d. 1162) translation of Plato's *Phaedo* also use the word *Africa* to describe this geographical region, as did the *Chronicon ducum et principum Beneventi, Salerni et Capuae et ducum Neapolis*⁷³.

However, what Amari had failed to consider was that, while it is possible that the *Cronica*'s author was using *Africa* to distinguish Tripoli from its namesake in the Holy Land, in the twelfth century, *Africa* was also frequently used to refer to al-Mahdīya.

For example, a twelfth-century manuscript version of Robert of Torigni's text notes that *Affrica* was the name of both a city and the province⁷⁴, while the continuer of Sigebert of Gembloux (d. 1112) claimed that *Africa* was one of the principle cities of the region⁷⁵. Hugo

71) The Chronicle of Robert of Torigni, abbot of the monastery of St. Michael-in-Peril-of-the-Sea, ed. by Richard HOWLETT (*Rerum Britannicarum Medii Aevi Scriptores* 82/4, 1889) p. 153.

72) Romualdi Salernitani *Chronicon*, ed. by Carlo A. GARUFI (RIS² 7/1, 1905–1935) p. 226f.: *Et quia cor magnificum et dominandi animum semper habuit, dominio Siciliae et Apuliae nequaquam contentus, maximum navalem preparavit exercitum, quem cum multis militibus in Africam mittens, ipsam cepit et tenuit. Susas Bonam Capsim Sfaxim et Tripolim expugnavit*. In the oldest manuscript version of Romuald's *Chronicon* in the Vatican Library, a medieval commentator understood the term *Africa* to relate to the geographical region: Arch. Cap. S. Pietro, E.22, fol. 97v col. I.

73) *Phaedo* interprete Henrico Aristippo, ed. Lorenzo MINIO-PALUELLO (*Corpus Platonicum Medii Aevi. Plato Latinus* 2, 1950) p. 90; *Chronicon Ducum et Principum aliquot Beneventi et Principum Salerni*, ed. Camillo PELLEGRINO, in: *Historia Principum Langobardorum* 1 (1643) p. 259–262, at p. 261.

74) The Chronicle of Robert of Torigni (as n. 71) p. 153, n. 1.

75) *Continuatio Praemonstratensis*, ed. Ludwig BETHMANN (MGH SS 6, 1843) p. 417–456, at p. 454: *Rogerus rex Siciliae exercitum navalem direxit ad fines Africae; captaque insigni civitate quae dicitur Affrica, Suilla, Asfax, Clippea, aliisque castris pluribus, archiepiscopum Affricae, qui sub servitute Romam venerat consecrandus, ad sedem suam remittit liberum*.