

Theodo of Bavaria

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Theodo (about 625 – 11 December c. 716) also known as **Theodo V** and **Theodo II**, was the Duke of Bavaria from 670 or, more probably, 680 to his death.

It is with Theodo that the well-sourced history of Bavaria begins. He strengthened Bavaria internally and externally and, according to Arbeo of Freising, he was a prince of great power whose fame extended beyond his borders.

His father was Theodo IV, Duke of Bavaria and his mother was probably Fara of Bavaria (b: 600), daughter of one of the Kings of the Lombards and (her mother) Daughter of Gisulf of Friuli (b: 577).

Theodo established his capital at Ratisbon (modern Regensburg). He married Folchaid, of the aristocracy of Alemannia, to build diplomatic ties there. He intervened in Lombard affairs by harbouring the refugees Ansprand and Liutprand, whom he assisted militarily on his return to claim the Iron Crown. Liutprand later married his daughter Guntrude. Theodo also defended his duchy ably from the Avars (with some failure in the east).

Theodo is the patron to the four great missionaries of Bavaria: Saint Rupert, Saint Erhard, Saint Emmeram, and probably Saint Corbinian. He was the first to draw up plans for the Bavarian church, aiming both at a deeper cultivation of the countryside as well as greater independence from the Frankish Kingdom by a closer association with the Pope. He was the first Bavarian duke to travel to Rome, where he conferred with Pope Gregory II. The diocesan seats were placed in the few urban centres, which served as the Duke's seats: Regensburg, Salzburg, Freising and Passau.

Two of his children are involved with the death of Saint Emmeram. Theodo's daughter Uta had become pregnant by her lover. Fearing her father's wrath, she confided to Emmeram and the saint promised to bear the blame, as he was about to travel to Rome. Soon after his departure, Uta's predicament became known and in keeping with the agreement she named Emmeram as the father. Her brother Lantpert went after Emmeram and greeted him as "bishop and brother-in-law," i.e., *episcopus et gener noster!* Then he had Emmeram cut and torn into pieces. Theodo had the remains of the saint moved to Regensburg. Nothing more is known of Lantpert and Uta.

Ordinals

Some historians have distinguished between a Duke **Theodo I**, ruling around 680, and a Duke **Theodo II**, reigning in the early eighth century. Theodo I is associated with events involving Saint Emmeram, Uta and Lantpert, while Theodo II is associated with Saints Corbinian and Rupert, the ecclesiastical organisation and the division of the Duchy. However, no contemporary source indicates a distinction between different Dukes of that name.

To complicate matters even further, Bavarian tradition has referred to Theodo I and Theodo II as **Theodo IV** and **Theodo V** respectively to differentiate them from legendary Agilolfing ancestors Theodo I to III, all who



would have reigned before 550.

Marriage and issue

He married Regintrude of Austrasia, daughter of Dagobert I and Nanthild. They had the following:

- Daughter of Theodo, married Godefroy, Duke of Alamannia

He also married Folchiade of Salzburg. They had the following:

- Theodbert
- Theobald
- Tassilo
- Grimoald
- Willigard^{[1][2]}

Theodo was eventually succeeded by his four other sons, among which he divided his duchy sometime before 715.

As early as 702, Theodbert had been ruling from Salzburg and from 711 or 712, Theobald was co-reigning. It is impossible to see if this division was territorial (as with the Merovingians) or purely a co-regency (as with the later princes of Benevento and Capua). If so, Theodbert's capital was probably Salzburg and the *Vita Corbiniani* informs that Grimoald had his seat there. References to Theobald and the Thuringii implies perhaps a capital at Regensburg and this leaves Tassilo at Passau. All of this is educated conjecture.

References

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		Succeeded by Theodbert
		Succeeded by Theobald
		Succeeded by Tassilo II
		Succeeded by Grimoald
Preceded by <i>unknown</i>	Duke of Bavaria 680–716	

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