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**THE TOWN OF CHERVEN DURING THE EARLY CENTURIES OF
OTTOMAN RULE**

(Summary)

The town of Cherven was one of the important administrative, cultural and ecclesiastical centers during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. The written information, which is very scarce, and the archeological studies show that the conditions created during the early centuries of the Ottoman domination a chiefly the destructive consequences of the aggressive campaign of Ali Pasha in 1388 caused the decline of Cherven. Despite the attempts to preserve some of the basic functions, the new realities affected the vitality of the town. The development and rise of the nearby town of Rousse which Cherven could not oppose, had a devastating effect. Thus in the 17th c. the town of Cherven turned into a small village. Notwithstanding the irreversible decline of the town of Cherven, it contributed to preserving the chiefly Bulgarian character of the majority of the settlements in the valley of the Roussenski Lom River.