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The Town of Serdica (Sredec) in the Political History of Bulgaria (809–1018)

(Summary)

The subject of research in the article is the political events concerning the city of Sredec by the time of the First Bulgarian Kingdom. The event of greatest importance for the Bulgarian history is the moment when Serdica became part of the Bulgarian lands. However, this happened not exactly when Khan Krum entered the town but later the same year. Also the Hungarian marches to Constantinople in the X century are retraced, because they crossed the peninsula on a diagonal military trace definitely crossing Sredec, although this is not mentioned in any documents concerning the march. With greatest accuracy is examined the march of Emperor Vasilius II in 986 to Sredec and all known sources of information are given. The interpretations familiar nowadays are expanded with new ideas, stressing on certain moments of the march that were not explained enough. During the period 986-1016 5 marches of Emperor Vasilius against the city and the region of Sredec are known. However, there is no information that the Byzantine army conquered the city. Sredec was probably one of the 35 Bulgarian fortresses that surrendered in 1018 after the death of the Bulgarian tzar Ivan Vladislav. During the examined period the big town of Sredec is a strong and resistable Bulgarian fortress.