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**THE CITY OF SERDICA AND THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF EARLY  
BYZANTIUM FROM THE FOURTH CENTURY UNTIL THE 470S A.D.**

(Summary)

The history of the emperor's city of Sofia is viewed against the background of the political destiny of the Eastern Roman Empire from the early fourth century until the 470s A.D. Serdica was the central city of the province of Dacia Mediterranea and in the first decades of the fourth century the political and military careers of the so-called "Illyrian Emperors" were connected with this strategically important fortress. The founder of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) Emperor Constantine the Great resided in Serdica on many occasions, emphasizing his strong affinity to the city. The emperor issued numerous decrees (edicts) here. After Constantine's death the city remained loyal to his son Constantius II at the time when the throne was usurped by Julian. There is no information about participation of Serdica's citizens in Procopius's rebellion that ran rampant in Asia Minor and Thrace, which suggests that the city remained loyal to the rightful emperor Valens. Serdica faced a threat at the time of the Gothic invasions in the first half of the fourth century A.D. and during the great conflict in the 470s A.D. between Emperor Leo I and the patrician Aspar, who was supported by the Goths, the city remained loyal to the emperor and his supporters. The first conquest and extensive destruction of Serdica in this period was inflicted in 447 A.D. by the Huns led by Attila who intended to negotiate with the emperor's envoys in the city.