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**CASTLES AND DEFENCE SYSTEMS OUTSIDE THE METROPOLIS
IN THE FIRST BULGARIAN KINGDOM**

(Summary)

This study is an attempt to present the place of the castles and the defence systems outside the metropolis of the First Bulgarian kingdom. The study mainly relies on information received from archaeological data. The specifics of the defence systems in the central region of the Bulgarian state and the Stone bank in Dobrudja with its castles are studied. It is made clear, that the defence system in the central region of the First Bulgarian state has the structure typical for the early medieval time, which is confirmed by comparison with the counterparts in Byzance, Karoling empire etc. The difference between it and the defence systems in Western Bulgarian lands, the territories north of Danube and south of Stara planina is explained, as well as the reasons for it.