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**URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNITY: PLOVDIV IN THE
EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

(Summary)

In 1878, besides being the capital of Rumelia, Plovdiv was also the largest and most industrially and culturally developed city in the Bulgarian lands. Over the next two decades, until the end of the 19th century, in this really big Bulgarian city many different things happened, but two remarkable events have significant and crucial importance for its future development – The Unification of Bulgaria in 1885 and the agricultural and industrial exhibition in Plovdiv in 1892. The Unification changed its status from a metropolitan to a provincial city and the exhibition – a demonstration of modernization efforts – presented, albeit in a minimized way, the model of the new urban space and its development perspective. What did Plovdiv look like on the eve of the 20th century – like a European or like an Oriental city? The answer to this question is the aim of this study, based on a multitude of different historical sources.