

History of Sofia

By Hristo Radev

Antiquity

- ❑ Sofia was originally a Thracian settlement called *Serdica*, or *Sardica*, possibly named after the Celtic tribe Serdi .
- ❑ The city was destroyed in the 447 invasion of the Huns. It was rebuilt by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I and for a while called *Triaditsa* or *Sredets* by the Slavonic tribes.



Middle Ages

- ❑ Sofia first became part of the First Bulgarian Empire during the reign of Khan Krum in 809, after a long siege. Afterwards, it was known by the Bulgarian name "*Sredets*" and grew into an important fortress and administrative centre.
- ❑ After a number of unsuccessful sieges, the city fell to the Byzantine Empire in 1018, but once again was incorporated into the restored Bulgarian Empire at the time of Tsar Ivan Asen I.



Before the Ottoman rule

- From the 12th to the 14th century, Sofia was a thriving centre of trade and crafts. It is possible that it had been called by the common population *Sofia* (meaning "wisdom" in Ancient Greek) about 1376 after the church of Saint Sophia



Modern and contemporary history

- Sofia was taken by Russian forces on January 4, 1878, during the Russo-Turkish War, 1877–78, and became the capital of the autonomous Principality of Bulgaria in 1879, which became the Kingdom of Bulgaria in 1908. It was proposed as a capital by Marin Drinov and was accepted as such on 3 April 1879. After the Liberation War, the new name "Sofia" replaced the old one ("Sredets").



That's all from me!

