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ZARA

ZARA, the early Roman Jadera, and the later *Διάδωρα*, of the Imperial topographer, Constantine Porphyrogenetos, may possibly have taken its name from the river Jader near Salona, when the Roman population of Salona was scattered by the Avars in 639, and Zara became the chief city of Dalmatia. The Emperor was fond of quaint etymologies and does not hesitate to give *ἰὰ μ' ἔρατ* = *jam erat* = "which was from of old", as the meaning of the name Jadera. The town stands on a peninsula running east and west, between a deep inlet of the sea and the channel of Zara by which we approach it. It had been a place of considerable importance under the Romans, and the walls and fortifications, which so amazed the Crusaders in 1202, are supposed to have been Roman work. These were swept away by the Venetians when they captured Zara as the upshot