In 342 BC the Macedonian king Philip II accepted the surrender of Kersob-leptes, the last of Kotys’ heirs, and subjected Thrace beyond the Strymon and “along the mountains” to Macedonian rule. The powerful Odrysian kingdom and its reigning dynasty had ruled most of the central Thracian plain and played a notable role in Greek political history from the late 430s to the middle of the fourth century BC.1 It now fell victim to its internal, dynastic rivalries and the growing Macedonian expansionism.

The Macedonian conquest of Thrace marks an important turning point in the history of this region. Philip made repeated expeditions across southeastern Thrace (353–352, 346, 342–340 BC) and also further north, into the land of the Getai and beyond the Danube against the Scythians (339 BC).2 They made him fully aware of the immense potential of the natural and human resources which control of this country could guarantee. However, he also experienced the precariousness of territorial conquests to the north of Mt. Rhodope, and the vulnerability of the northern frontier of Thrace. His own campaigns north of Mt. Haemus3 and especially those of his son Alexander against the revolted Maidoi, probably in 340,4 and the Triballians and Getai in 335 BC5 aimed at securing parts of the frontiers from aggressive neighbours, especially in the north and the northwest of Thrace. Subsequently, Macedonian interest focused mainly on the central Thracian plain between Mt. Haemus and Rhodope, an area which Greeks had penetrated earlier with the settlement of trading posts (emporia) and dense commercial exchanges. However, never before Philip had it been

controlled or colonized. For centuries the functioning of Greek *emporia* in Thrace had been tolerated by the Odrysian rulers who shared the benefits of commercial exchanges with Greek colonies of the Thracian littoral.6 One such inland *emporion*, probably named *Pistiros*, has been identified with a small, fortified urban settlement excavated on the upper reaches of the river Hebros.7 An important Greek epigraphic document was discovered recently, associated with this site. Probably it is to be interpreted as an edict and dated to ca. 350 BC. It has been ascribed to one of the successors of the great Odrysian king Kotys, and has shed unexpected light on the legal status of such settlements in sovereign Odrysian territory, on the settlers’ ethnic identity and their symbiosis with the native tribal population, on the origin of the Greek merchants, the privileges guaranteed to them and rulings for the taxation of goods imported and exported through *emporia* established in Kotys’ time (he died in 360/359 BC).8

Numismatic evidence indicates the revival of such trading posts after a brief period of decline during the last days of the Odrysian kingdom. Most importantly, Macedonian rule introduced the new phenomenon of coloniza- 
tion in the Thracian hinterland. Almost four hundred years after the settlement of the first wave of Greek colonists on the Thracian littoral, a second colonizing wave in the wake of victorious Macedonian armies created a network of fortified military colonies, inhabited by a mixed population, along strategic land and river routes.9 *Philippopolis* on the Hebros10 and *Kabyle* on the river Tonzos,11 probably also *Alexandropolis*, on the river Strymon,12 introduced civic institutions into inland Thrace and, in time, developed into new trading centres for materials (mainly precious metals) and commodities which in the past had accrued to the royal trea-

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9 Diod. 16.71.2.

10 Plin., *NH* 4.41.

11 Dem. 8.44; Strabo 7.6.2.

12 Plut., *Alex*. 9.1.