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Answer: The First Council of Constantinople occurred in AD 381 in the city of the same name (modern Istanbul, Turkey). It is considered the second of the Ecumenical Councils, after Nicea in 325 . At the Council of Constantinople, Christian bishops convened to settle several doctrinal disputes prompted by unrest in the religious leadership of the city.

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 To storm the walls of Constantinople they would need allies in war. These they found in Byzantium's other old enemy, the Persian Sassanid Empire. The year was 626 AD, and at this time, the Persian Empire was at its height, while the power of Byzantium, last descendant of Ancient Rome, was declining.

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 In 717 AD, an army and fleet of Muslim Arabs from the Umayyad Caliphate besieged Constantinople as a climax to the Arab-Byzantine Wars. However, the city was well defended, and managed to keep the sea routes open due to their use of Greek Fire and the boom chain protecting the Golden Horn, meaning that they couldn't be starved into submission.

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