Sean Fowler  
History 101  
Tristan

**Ammianus**

There is debate among scholars whether the Battle of Hadriopolis was one between Rome and an Invading empire, or between Rome and a revolting populace. I think it is very clearly the latter of the two for two reasons. Firstly, the Goths did not move into Rome’s territory out of an attempt to gain more land. They were quite literally running for their lives away from the infamous Huns and secondly, they asked Rome if they could be there… what type of invading force asks permission?

When the Goth’s moved into Roman territory it wasn’t with the intent to conquer, it was merely an attempt to survive. Their land was being taken over by the Huns and the only option they had was to move. They didn’t even “take” the land, they got permission from Emporer Valens to be there! It was only after the new settlers were treated very poorly that the battles even started, “… two rivals in recklessness: one was Lupicinus, commanding general in Thrace, the other Maximus, a pernicious leader. Their treacherous greed was the source of all our evils… but one melancholy and unheard-of-act shall be mentioned, of which, even if they were their own judges of their own case, they could not be acquitted by any excuse. When the barbarians after their crossing were harassed by lack of food, those most hateful generals devised a disgraceful traffic; they exchanged every dog that their insatiability could gather from far and wide for one slave each…” (Ammianus’, *Res Gestae* 4.9-11). It was because of this terrible treatment that the revolts even occurred! “ The Theruingi, hard pressed by famine and want, and shamefully treated, under the lead of Alavivus and Fritigern revolt from Valens, and rout Lupicinus and his army” (Ammianus’, *Res Gestae* 5.1).

So, the Goths were allowed into the empire by Emporer Valens. Then a couple of Roman commanders who were put in control over the new addition to the empire acted like total… villains… and this lead to the revolts. I think these facts lead to the pretty straight forward conclusion that the Battle of Hadrianopole was an instance of a citizen’s revolt.