

Chinese "transcription" *Xunu* or *Xūnu*, and Avesta *Hunu*, except the Sanskrit has substituted for the final root vowel 'u' the stem final—a characteristic of the names of peoples in that language. "The Purāṇas have a form *Urṇa* which together with Epic Skr. *Hūna* suggests Indic *Hūrṇa* Turk, *Xūrnu*".<sup>111</sup>

We may note here the Tibetan *Hor*, which corresponds with the first syllable of the reconstructed form *Hūr-ṇa*. The difference of vowels may indicate a back diphthong or back vowel between *o* and *u*, as Ptolemy's *Xoūnoi* suggests, since the Greeks wrote *u* (*y*) for Indic *u*.<sup>112</sup>

Though all the above forms go back to one primitive form, we cannot say the same for the people to whom they were applied. The general opinion is that the Hsiung-nus, Huns, *Hūṇas* etc., were Turks. Some scholars consider them to have been a mixture of many tribes, Iranians, Mongols, and Paleosibirians (ancestors of the Yenissei-ostyaks). Whatever may have been the dominant race or speech was, it can be seen that there must have been several subject people and subject armies in such far-flung empires, necessitating some mixture and mutual influence—ethnic, linguistic and cultural.<sup>113</sup> Otto Maenchen-Helfen has discussed the whole question on the basis of the evidence of language, history, ethnology, and archaeology<sup>114</sup> and has pointed out that the greater part of the Hsiung-nu vocabulary pointed to Mongol<sup>115</sup> Later Pelliot considered the same vocabulary and established that the *Hsiung-nu* and *Huns* were Turks.<sup>116</sup>

Louis Bazin<sup>117</sup> and Von Gabain<sup>118</sup> also reached the conclusion that in language of the *Hsiung-nu* there was a high percentage of Turkish words.<sup>119</sup>

In the second century B.C. the *Hiung-nu* (*Huns*) started a movement near the Chinese frontier and succeeded in destroying the Greco-Bactrian empire, in strongly menacing the existence of the house of Arsakes, and in landing crowds of Central Asian invaders within the borders of India. In the latter half of the fourth century A.D., a branch of them, the White Huns, or Ephthalites, flooded the South of Asia; and 'about the time when the last legions of Rome shattered on the plains of Chalons, the motley hordes of Attila, the White Huns had begun to tread Sassanian Persia under the hoofs of their