

the advent of the Othomis, or the vanguard of the Tungus, to America may be placed about the year 700 A.D.

Malte-Brun says: "The Othomi, or Hiâ-Hiû, is one of the most widely spread languages of the Mexican republic, since it is spoken in all the State of Queretaro, and in part of those of San Luis de Guanajuato, Michoacan, Mexico, Puebla, Vera-Cruz, and Tlaxcala. According to Clavijero, the country of the Othomis began in the northern part of the valley of Mexico, and extended as far as the mountains, which are about ninety miles from the capital. Among inhabited regions which were numerous is to be remarked the ancient and celebrated city of Tula, founded by the Toltecs, and that of Xilotepec, which, since the Spanish Conquest, became the Othomi metropolis. This nation is regarded as one of the most ancient in Anahuac; having retained its savage state during several centuries, it had the reputation of being the rudest of those of the land. The Othomis, says Father Sahagun, were naturally heavy, rude, and unskilful, and so celebrated for indolence, that it was customary to say instead of 'Ah! the clumsy fellow!'—'He is like an Othomi.'" It was only towards the fifteenth century that the Othomis began to live in society, as subjects of the kings of Tezcoco; they then founded several villages. A large number of those who had persevered in their savage ways gave much trouble to the Spaniards before they were subdued: this did not take place until towards the seventeenth century.

The Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg writes: "There is reason to believe that the Othomis occupied the mountains and valleys of Anahuac a considerable time before the Nahoas and the tribes afterwards known by the name of Toltecs. Rude and barbarous in their persons as in their customs and language, leading a hard life, preferring the mountains to the plains, the Othomis have preserved, since the farthest removed period of Toltec tradition, the same manners and the same idiom, without ever becoming absorbed in the nations settled beside them, who persecuted them more than once, and have themselves passed away without leaving a trace behind. Their language, rough as themselves, is monosyllabic, embracing every kind of sound, but destitute of grace, exhibiting, nevertheless, in its simplicity something majestic that savours of antiquity. It calls itself 'Hiang-Hiung,' that is to say, the language that endures and is permanent, and the name 'Othomi' which those who speak it bear, expresses in a touching way, their condition of dependence and misery in the course of many ages 'never quiet.' Whence came the Othomi? Through what countries did they pass before descending to Mexico? What is this language