einzuleiten und Disziplinarstrafen zu verhängen, betont
van den Boorn, in: JNES 44, 1985, 19, 23–24. – Zu
Anm. 37: Zur Rolle des W. bei der Arbeitsorganisation,
bis, für das MR, vgl. Bernadette Menut, Recherches sur
l’histoire juridique économique et sociale de l’ancienne
Lit.: Arthur Weil, Die Veziere des Pharaonenreiches,
Straßburg i. E. 1908 (veraltet); Helck, Verwaltung,

E. M. P.

Westen (jmmt), die „rechte“ *Himmelsrichtung
(im Gegensatz zu Osten = links = unang Stingst),
personifiziert in der Göttin *Amentet, gilt als das
Totenreich: man „geht zum Westen“, wenn man
unter dem Ruf „Zum Westen, zum Westen“
begravert wird; die Leichen blicken (meist) gen
W. im W. liegen die thinitischen *Königsgräber
von *Abydos, die *Pyramiden des AR mit ihren
Privatfriedhöfen, die *Sonnenheiligtümer der
5. Dyn. (als Grüber des Dynastieehmens) und die
*Nekropolen von *Theben-West. Im W. aber geht
*Atum unter als Sonne in den Armen seiner
Mutter *Nut (CG 41002); dabei spielt der West-
berg *Manu eine Rolle. *Seth kämpft dort gegen
die *Apophis-Schlange, deren *Blut den Westhimm-
zel rot färber. *Augensagen, *Jenseitsvorstellun-
gen, *Westwüste.

W. H.

Westwüste. The Western or Libyan Desert ex-
tends westward from the Nile Valley ( * Nil) to
beyond the border of Libya and south into the ad-
jacent Sudan. It represents a great erosional land-
scape developed in Cretaceous and younger sedi-
mentary rocks ( * Geographie). In the south and
west, Nubian Sandstone ( * Sandstein) is charac-
teristic, generally forming featureless plains
veneered by sand sheets and fields of longitudinal
dunes; unusual relief is only provided by the Gif
Kebir and other sandstone plateaus and the Pre-
cambrian mass of the Gebel Uweinat. In the east
and north, Eocene to Mio-Pliocene limestones
( * Kalkstein) dip towards the Mediterranean Sea;
rough, crescent escarpments delimit their southern
margins, above which are flat to undulating high
plains. Mineral resources ( * Bergbau) in the
Libyan Desert are few, a key exception being the
Chephren Quarries (40 km NW of * Abu Simbel),
where * amethysts and carnelian ( * Karneol) were
mined from dykes intruding a dark-blue Precam-
brian gneiss with quartz veins ( * Granit). Instead,
the key resources are artesian or ground waters
( * Brunnen) tapped in the *Oasis basins, that were
eroded by wind or running water or both. These
oasis waters are "fossil," reflecting recharge from
greater Pleistocene rainfall well before 8000 B.C.
and, to a lesser degree, mid-Holocene rainfall c.
5000 B.C. ( * Klima).

Since 1972 the previously obscure, prehistoric
archaeology of the Libyan Desert has been studied
on a large scale. There is no record of settlement
c. 25,000–8000 B.C. Subsequently, greater rain-
fall led to accumulation of mud pans and lake
beds 8200–3800 B.C. (calibrated radiocarbon
dates), with interruptions, in many Egyptian oases
and the northern Sudan ( * Wüste). Such
improved water resources allowed settlement of
small groups of Terminal Paleolithic hunter-
gatherers, with a microlithic industry resembling
the Capsian of northwest Africa, in * Siwa, the
Fayum ( * Fajjum, * Birket el-Qarun), * Charqa,
*Dachla, the Dyke area 175 km south of Dachla,
and Nabra Playa (22 ° 31′ N, 30 ° 46′ E, 330 km
south of Charqa), c. 8000–6600 B.C. (calibrated).
This terminal Paleolithic differs from the contem-
poraneous El-Kabian, Shamarkian, and
Qadan industries used by hunter-fisher-gatherers
in the Nile Valley before 5000 B.C. (calibrated). In
Dachla, Charqa and * Bahrija there is an
acerosic Neolithic with arrowheads (transverse,
tanged or unifacial) and grinding stones, that has
some lithic affinities to later, Nile Valley Neolithic
traditions ( * Feuersteingerät et); at Dachla there
also were domesticated cattle; calibrated dates are
6150 and 5800 B.C. The earliest true Neolithic,
notable for impressed or wavy-line pottery of
Early Khartum type, domesticated cattle and
sheep/goat as well as grinding stones, is firmly
dated 7000 B.C. (calibrated) at Nabra and in the
Gif Kebir (Wadi Bakht). At Nabra there also is
domesticated barley, making it the oldest, con-
firmed agricultural site complex in Africa. The
background, lithic industry of Nabra resembles
the Terminal Paleolithic, but after 5650 B.C. there
are some bifacial pieces, including stemmed
arrowheads. At Dachla, the ceramic Neolithic has
Khartoum-style pottery, tanged and concave-base
arrowheads, more grinding stones, and domesti-
cated goat. Later Neolithic occupations, with
local undecorated pottery, are verified in Dachla
and the Fayum, as well as until 5170 B.C. around
Nabra and until 3565 B.C. in Charga, where
spring-fed ponds continued to accumulate and
remained a focus of settlement into OK times.
Charga seems to be unique in regard to oasis
settlement continuity into historical times. C-
Group pottery has been found only at * Dungul
(2030 B.C. calibrated), confirming the paucity of
late prehistoric occupation in the Libyan Desert
Oases.
The Saharan Neolithic of Khartoum Tradition,
represented at Nabra and extending west to south-
ern Algeria, derives only its pottery and grinding
stones from the hunting-fishing-gathering Khar-
tum Complex of the central Sudan. The acquisi-
tion of domesticated sheep/goat (not native to Africa) and cattle (native to the Nile Valley and Northwest Africa) (*Domestikation) in the interior Saharan 2000 years before the Nile Valley or any of the coastal regions remains problematical. Unifacial, stemmed arrowheads probably derive from localized, Saharan Terminal Paleolithic roots, rather than the Pre-Pottery Neolithic "B" of the Sinai. Agricultural origins in northern Africa were therefore multilinear, and the new Libyan Desert data do little to clarify the staging areas for the first Neolithic that appeared in the Fayum and at *Merimde shortly after 5000 B.C. 20

