

## Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis

Thebes (Θῆβαι, Thēbai) is the Greek designation of the ancient Egyptian niwt "(The) City" and niwt-rst "(The) Southern City". The new kingdom placed their new capital in Thebes. It is located about 800 km south of the Mediterranean, on the east bank of the river Nile (25.7° N 32.645° E). Thebes was the capital of Waset, the fourth Upper Egyptian nome (the term "Waset" was used for the name of the city as well). The city was the capital of Egypt during part of the Eleventh Dynasty (Middle Kingdom), and most of the Eighteenth Dynasty (New Kingdom), though the administration probably remained located at Memphis for much of this. With the Nineteenth Dynasty the seat of government moved to the Delta. The archaeological remains of Thebes offer a striking testimony to Egyptian civilization at its height.

In modern usage, the mortuary temples and tombs on the west bank of the river Nile are generally thought of as being part of Thebes.

At the seat of the Theban triad of Amun, Mut, and Khonsu, Thebes was known in the Egyptian language from the end of the New Kingdom as niwt-*imn*, "The City of Amun." This found its way into the Hebrew Bible as נֹאֲמֹן *nō* *amōn* (Nahum 3:8), which is probably the same as נֹ ("No") (Ezekiel 30:14). In Greek this name was rendered Διόσπολις *Diospolis*, "City of Zeus" (Zeus being the god whom the Greeks identified with Amun). The Greeks surnamed the city *μεγάλη* *megale*, "the Great", to differentiate the city from numerous others named *Diospolis*. The Romans rendered the name *Diospolis Magna*.

The Greek poet Homer extolled the wealth of Thebes in the *Iliad*, Book 9 (c. 7th Century BCE): "... in Egyptian Thebes the heaps of precious ingots gleam, the hundred-gated Thebes."

Luxor (Arabic: Al-Uqṣur =? The palaces) الأ قصر and al-Karnak الكرنك are the modern-day Arabic names of the towns situated at or near the sites of two important temples that stood on the outskirts of the city.

Source: -- From Wikipedia [<http://www.wikipedia.org>]