

## Africans See the Cat

Interest in Georgist political economy is strong and growing, among students from many countries in Africa. Students enthusiastically complete HGI courses and recommend them heartily. The long list of social and economic problems faced by struggling African nations, and the poor record of solutions that have been offered by every “ideological” path that has been tried, leave many Africans eager for a new approach. Henry George’s refutation of the “wages-fund theory”, for example, is a dusty relic to students in the United States — but to people in developing nations who have watched the failure of schemes of “capital formation” based on foreign debt, its relevance is clear. And George’s remedy finds a receptive ear among those who watch their natural resources get grabbed, by foreign corporations, while their people slide ever deeper into poverty.

The Institute is doing what it can to take advantage of this gathering momentum. Three very promising HGI alumni are prepared to enter the fray, and the HGI, with support from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, is providing them with equipment, materials and advice.

In Ethiopia, Kidane Hiwot has been promoting georgist analysis for over a decade, under very trying conditions. For the last year he has been serving as an instructor in the HGI’s correspondence program, despite absurdly long delays in mail service. (The average round-trip time for a letter between Ethiopia and the US is five weeks.) We will be providing him with course materials and office supplies — and we hope very much to get a progress report from him in person, at the 2001 CGO conference in Pittsburgh.

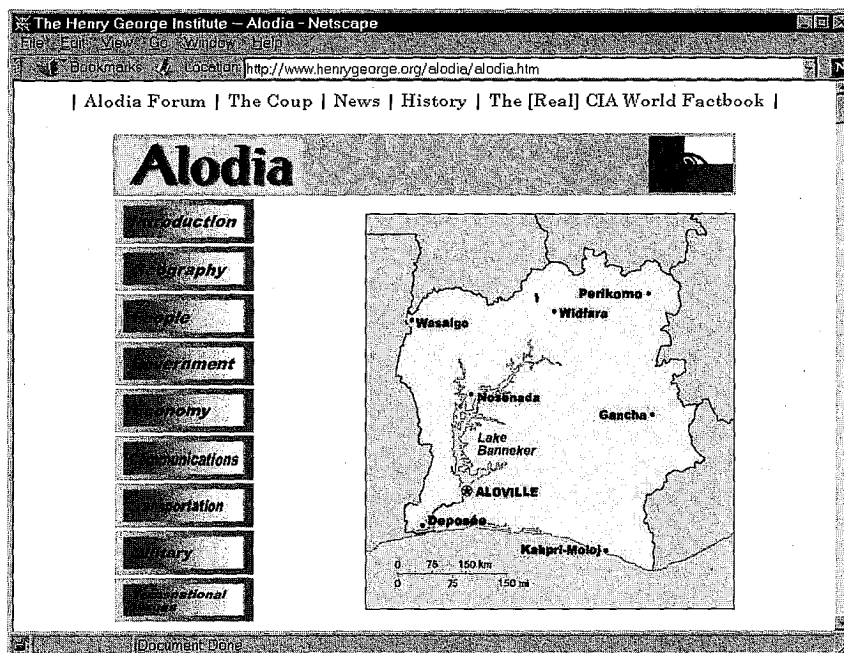
In Nigeria, Gordon Abiama is eager to promulgate the georgist message in any feasible way. He will be teaching *Principles of Political Economy*, and seeks to organize a “Land Value Taxation Symposium” in which to make a high-profile case for a sane public revenue alternative in that most troubled nation.

In Mali, Sunny Akuopha is working to bring georgist education to French-speaking Africans. He is updating the old French courses in *Fundamental Economics* and *Applied Economics* from the HGI files and providing invaluable support to the Alodia project (see next page). We have learned that many hundreds of the Henry George books in French translation have been warehoused by the Schalkenbach Foundation for some thirty years, which we now plan to use in Sunny’s West Africa program.

The small grant that the HGI has secured for this program will be quickly used up with purchases of computers, internet access and basic supplies. Internet access is not yet commonplace in many parts of Africa; Mali, for example, has one ISP in the entire nation. Nevertheless,

Akuopha and Abiama regularly make hour-long drives to internet cafes at their own expense, in order to participate in georgist work. The Henry George Institute would gratefully accept any donations targeted for this important outreach work in Africa.

We expect this project to grow, because our alumni in Africa are eager to make it grow. Other students (we currently have 68 in Africa) express similar enthusiasm. The challenges are great, yet it may prove that where chaos reigns and hope seems to ebb away, people are most receptive to real, sustainable change. G



Visitors to the HGI's website are now able to help change the course of a nation's history. Alodia is a fictional country — but it shares many characteristics with its troubled African neighbors. Its new regime has announced plans to 1) Remove all taxes on commerce, production and trade, including import duties; 2) immediately undertake a reassessment of all the land parcels in the nation, and charge land rent for public revenue, and 3) stop making any further payments on the nation's debt to international banks. Alodia's history, geography, natural resources and politics are laid out in a series of essays. You may see how the reforms are progressing — and learn a great deal more about the nation of Alodia — online at: [www.henrygeorge.org/alodia](http://www.henrygeorge.org/alodia)