

***Our Souls to Keep:
Black/White Relations
in America***

by George Henderson

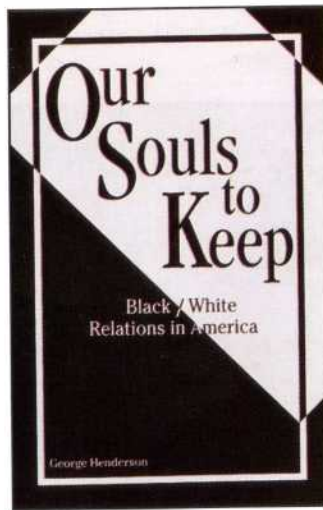
Intercultural Press
269 pages. \$19.95 paperback

In August 1967, George Henderson was appointed to the Norman faculty of the University of Oklahoma, only its third black member. Significantly, he and his wife, Barbara, also became the first black homeowners in the community. There they lived constructively—if not always happily—ever after.

The brief autobiographical portion of this book leaves the reader wishing for more, but telling his own absorbing and inspiring story is not George Henderson's purpose. Neither is he attempting to motivate or commiserate with his black brothers and sisters. Instead, Henderson has written primarily for white Americans, offering a glimpse into the black culture that whites too often find confusing, even illogical.

Using history as his backdrop, Henderson addresses the problem of black identity and, in one enlightening chapter, "Talking Black, Thinking Black," the issue of communication and values. The author frankly acknowledges the existence of black as well as white bigotry, even in his own thinking, but he contends that people of good faith can and must work through such debilitating mind-sets.

Henderson focuses on education and employment as the arenas with the most potential for the coming together of America, suggesting practical strategies for those who teach and super-



wise blacks. Not all of his readers will immediately endorse all of his suggestions, but his candid and balanced views should promote a discussion that must be joined if the twin sins of racism and prejudice are to be reduced in America.

—Carol J. Burr

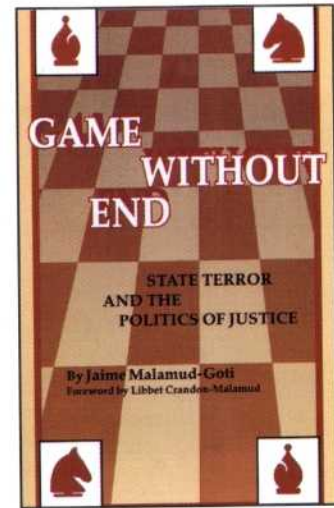
***Game Without End:
State Terror and the
Politics of Justice***

by Jaime Malamud-Goti

forward by Libbet Crandon-Malamud
University of Oklahoma Press
255 pages. \$24.95 hardback

Jaime Malamud-Goti provides "lessons learned" from Argentina's use of judicial trials to change societal attitudes, reconcile contending factions and consolidate democracy after the "dirty war" and terrorism of military rule, 1976-83. President Raul Alfonsin appointed Malamud to write the legislation to try and punish, if guilty, human rights violators. His analysis is that the trials perpetuated beliefs and divisions that encourage authoritarianism and state-sponsored violence rather than the consolidation of democracy.

Societies that have overthrown violent, repressive regimes have sought to balance the issues of punishment and amnesty, reconciliation and justice, economic recovery and development, democracy and order, freedom and the rule of law (see Samuel P. Huntington's 1992 OU Press classic on democratization). Each country has searched for, not quite satisfactorily, the proper mix of retribution for past



deeds and the forgiveness required for reconciliation and progress toward democracy, equity and justice.

Argentines chose the judicial system to achieve this, limiting prosecutions to top military leaders and atrocious military violators of human rights. Other countries used a limited number of trials but added truth commissions to attempt an objective and detailed recording of abuses to help prevent their recurrence. This process, too, has been found wanting, mostly for lack of balance; but it allows opportunity to indict and change the greater society's embedded authoritarianism and intolerance, which Malamud found lacking in the Argentine process.

A valuable Malamud truth is that authoritarian, repressive regimes have their roots not only in the armed forces but also in "we-they" attitudes and arbitrary practices that pervade civilian institutions and sectors. He shows that patterns of abuse of power and resort to violence existed in the preceding Peronist regimes and have resurfaced. The quest for economic development and improved standards of living is a long and difficult one, and the achievement of justice and the rule of law is even lengthier and more challenging. Those interested in more just and democratic societies should read Malamud's *Game Without End*. The book merits the Julian Rothbaum Prize as the OU Press book of 1996.

—Edwin G. Corr
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Books reviewed are available in bookstores or directly from the publisher: University of Oklahoma Press, 1-800-627-7377; Intercultural Press, 1-800-370-2665.