



Radical Evil on Trial

By Carlos Santiago Nino

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In this provocative book, Carlos Santiago Nino offers a first-hand analysis of the Argentine experience of the 1980s, when a brutal military dictatorship gave way to a democratic government. Nino, who played a key role in the transition, examines the impact of human rights trials there and elsewhere and considers their potential to strengthen a new democratic government.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In his latest scholarly essay, Nino, the author of several notable human rights works, including *The Ethics of Human Rights* (Clarendon, 1991), asks why some human rights abuses are prosecuted while others are not. He begins by surveying notable 20th-century rights violations and cataloging the successes of their corresponding prosecutions. He then includes a case study of the problems associated with the democratization of his native Argentina. Nino's analysis reveals several factors that account for the relative success of these trials, such as the abruptness of governmental transition and the frequency of abuse. He further argues that rights violations should be prosecuted primarily for preventive rather than retributive reasons. While experts may find Nino's ideas intriguing, most readers will be left wishing for more clearly written prose, more extensive explanations of historical events, and better footnoting of sources.

Recommended only for larger academic libraries.

Steven Anderson, Baltimore Cty. Circuit Court Law Lib., Towson, Md.

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From the Back Cover

In this book, Carlos Santiago Nino offers a provocative first-hand analysis of developments in Argentina during the 1980s, when a brutal military dictatorship gave way to a democratic government. Nino played a key role in guiding the transition to democracy and in shaping the human rights policies of President Raul Alfonsin after the fall of the military junta in 1983: The centerpiece of Alfonsin's human rights program was the trial held in a federal court in Buenos Aires in 1985, which resulted in the convictions of five of the leading members of the junta that ruled the country from 1976 to 1983. Placing the Argentine experience in the context of the war crime trials at Nuremberg, Tokyo, and elsewhere, Nino examines the broader questions raised by human rights trials.

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