



Portland State
History

and



FRIENDS of
HISTORY

present

CAN A POLITICAL ACTIVIST BE A GOOD HISTORIAN?

WED APR 19th

SMSU 238

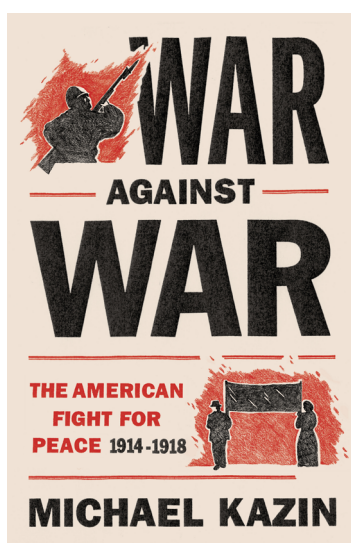
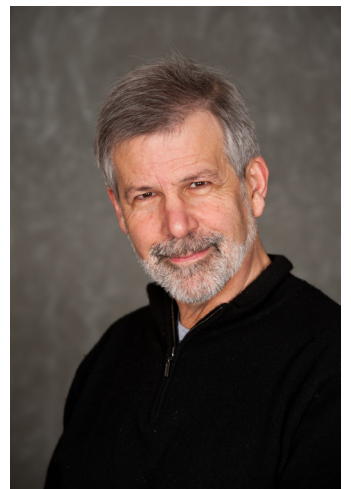
2pm

Browsing Lounge

Most academic historians in the U.S. today have political views that can be described as liberal or left, and some are active in trying to change their society or others. Should those facts lead one to mistrust the motivations and results of their scholarship and writing?

As someone who has been both a political activist and a historian of American politics and social movements for over forty years, **Michael Kazin** constantly wrestles with this question. He will discuss aspects of his career, why he chose the topics of his six books, and his current position as editor of *Dissent*— a leading magazine of the American left since it was founded in 1954.

MICHAEL KAZIN is professor of history at Georgetown University. His main interest is the history of politics and social movements in the United States. Kazin writes frequently for such publications and websites as *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Nation*, and *The Daily Beast*.



Kazin is the author of *American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation*; *A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*; *The Populist Persuasion: An American History* (new edition forthcoming in Fall 2017); *Barons of Labor: The San Francisco Building Trades and Union Power in the Progressive Era*; and *America Divided: The Civil War of the 1960s* (5th ed., 2015) with Maurice Isserman. He also edited *In Search of Progressive America*, and *Americanism: New Perspectives on the History of an Ideal* (with Joseph McCartin) and is editor-in-chief of *The Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History*. His most recent book is *War Against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918* (Simon and Schuster, January, 2017).