

History as Political Thought

Essays on the Politics of History and Time

Edited by
Anthony Sparacino

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SERIES IN WORLD HISTORY

"History as Political Thought" invites readers to reconsider the politics of history and the history of politics. Rejecting histories as merely detached or apolitical accounts, these authors explore history as a field of living commitments and contestations. From Thucydides' account of the violence he encounters in his fifth-century present to Trump's assault on critical histories of America's formation, the essays examine the uses and abuses of the past. At a moment when fascists seek to reclaim and weaponize history, this volume provides a crucial intervention, listening to history's political force and imagining new historical futures.

Andrew Poe

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About the editor

Dr. Anthony Sparacino is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at York College/CUNY. His research interests are broadly within the fields of American political development and political thought. His previous work has examined the role of ideas in shaping political institutions, especially political parties. His first book, 'Governors Go National: The Democratic and Republican Governors Associations and the Nationalization of American Politics,' examines the origins and development of the Democratic and Republican Governors Associations. His current book project, 'From Progressive to Partisan: Subnational Executives, Intergovernmental Organization-Building and the Nationalization of American Politics,' builds on his first book and analyzes intergovernmental organizations representing state and local executives in intergovernmental and partisan politics. His work has appeared in the journals 'American Political Thought' and 'Studies in American Political Development' as well as edited volumes on the #NeverTrump movement and Gilded Age and Progressive Era politics.

Summary

History is not just an academic field of study: it is an inherently political topic. It is something that we, as members of a political system, tap into in order to understand our own identities and our places in contemporary society. History is a source of political legitimacy but its meaning is contested. People argue about what history means all the time and in a number of different contexts. The authors of this volume explore how history is discussed across a range of academic fields and in popular politics and culture. Notably, the authors of the chapters included in this volume are not historians. Rather, we explore history through the lens of political and cultural theory. The volume seeks to reflect the ubiquity of history as a topic of contemporary political discourse and brings together scholars from multiple disciplines who all have a deep appreciation for history even if they are not members of history departments.

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