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Aug. 5, 2015 -- The U.S. Army War College has appointed an internationally recognized historian of World Wars I and II as its inaugural Chair of War Studies.



Dr. Michael S. Neiberg is a prolific writer, researcher, lecturer, and historical commentator who is committed equally to teaching and research. Moving between military and academic worlds, Neiberg's work has been to make the history of warfare and international relations relevant to policy makers and practitioners. He will bring to the position an understanding of history and the practitioner's perspective – specifically, what the Army War College students need to understand.

Neiberg is currently the Henry L. Stimson Chair of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College. His published work focuses on the American and French experiences in the two world wars. His most recent book on World War I is *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I* (Harvard University Press, 2011). The Wall Street Journal recently named it one of the five best books ever written about the war. In October, 2012 Basic Books published his *The Blood of Free Men*, a history of the liberation of Paris in 1944. In May, 2015 Basic published

his *Potsdam: The End of World War II and the Remaking of Europe*. He is currently at work on a history of American responses to the Great War, 1914-1917.

"World War I is something that happened a century ago but is, clearly, still affecting the world we live and the way the United States responds to it," said Neiberg about linking past, present, and future. "As we are a century away from that event, it's given us time and space to recognize patterns and to see the ways that the experience of World War I is more relevant to us today than we may at first have thought."

"To understand where you are in the process of national security, you need to know where you and the rest of the world have been," said Neiberg.

"The Chair of War Studies was established to produce cutting-edge scholarship that influences national security policy, military strategy, and the Army War College curriculum," said Dr. Lance Betros, Army War College Provost. "Mike was selected from a deep pool of highly talented applicants. He stood out because of his conspicuous excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service to the institution and the Army."

"In his new position, he will be able to focus these talents to help strengthen our educational and research programs and engage in outreach activities," said Betros. "This is a great win for the Army War College."

As the Chair of War Studies, Neiberg will reach out to external centers of research and study to align the Army War College's work with the best practices of research and analysis in the United States and abroad. "We come at issues from a land-power and national security lens, while those in think tanks and universities may use a different set of perspectives," he said. "There's a lot we can learn from each other through the exchange of ideas about defining America's national security challenges and the range of options to deal with those challenges."

Neiberg comes from a family of teachers and wants to stay close to the classroom as the chair. "That's what I came into this line of work to do, and that remains an important part of the job," he said. "I'm here because people were willing to mentor me, willing to go out of their way and willing to take a chance on me. "I hope to have impact on students beyond the classroom and give students the analytical tools they can use after they leave," he said of the senior military officers who study at the Army War College.

"I think my contribution to this will be 'historizing' these problems so we can understand these problems more deeply than today's headlines," said Neiberg. "I'll make whatever I do as international as possible because the problems we're dealing with involve a rapidly changing world – and history is our best guide to that world," he added.

The Chair of War Studies is made possible through a gift from the non-profit Army War College Foundation.

The Army War College provides strategic education of senior military leaders and Army strategists. It's best known for the Master's of Strategic Studies program offered to 1200 resident and distance students annually. Those students include select senior US military colonels and lieutenant colonels, senior federal civilians and international officers. Hundreds of students, annually, participate in specialized educational courses at the strategic level. The School's courses apply the expertise of full-time faculty and specialists from across the Army War College's centers of history, research, wargaming, and international peacekeeping and stability operations.

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