The legacies of World War II are many, varied, and continually changing. World War I was initially called "the war to end all wars." But it was followed by the Treaty of Versailles, "the peace to end all peace." We will follow that trajectory from the hopeful end of WWII with the formation of the United Nations -- and movements for post-colonial independence, with the promise of Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Worker's Rights, Human Rights, LGBTQ Rights worldwide. (part one, February - March)

Although defined by Cold War tensions, that hopeful era was followed by backlash, racism, repression, austerity, greed, the return of war, civil wars, fascism. Now there is trouble all over the land; trouble all over the world. (part two, April)

Finally, there are new movements of strength and hope -- for social democracy, sustainable development, a green New Deal, peace, dignity, human rights. A global sense that sanctuary, freedom, education and security for all must emerge. There will be One World or None. (part three, May)

Since this is a participatory seminar, our readings will reflect student interests and enthusiasms. A full book list will evolve; suggestions for each section to follow. Course requirements: three book reports, one term paper, weekly class participation -- using Portside, Commondreams.org, Democracy Now, the BBC, and other news sources.

especially recommended for part one:
Bettina Aptheker. INTIMATE POLITICS: HOW I GREW UP RED, FOUGHT FOR FREE SPEECH, BECAME A FEMINIST REBEL
Beth Baron. EGYPT AS A WOMAN: NATIONALISM, GENDER, POLITICS
Patricia Bell-Scott. THE FIREBRAND AND THE FIRST LADY: PAULI MURRAY, ER, & THE STRUGGLE....
Janet Dewart Bell. LIGHTING THE FIRES OF FREEDOM: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Manu Bhagavan. THE PEACEMAKERS: INDIA AND THE QUEST FOR ONE WORLD
Blanche W Cook, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, esp vols 2 and 3
Angela Davis. WITH MY MIND ON FREEDOM: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY (1974).
Martin Duberman. A SAVING REMNANT: THE RADICAL LIVES OF BARBARA DEMING & DAVID McREYNOLDS [ also books by Barbara Deming]
David Levering Lewis. THE IMPROBABLE WENDELL WILLKIE
Arthur Laffin & Sister Anne Montgomery, eds/ SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES: NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION FOR DISARMAMENT
Robert Lifton & Richard Falk. INDEFENSIBLE WEAPONS: THE CASE AGAINST NUCLEARISM
Pauli Murray. SONG IN A WEARY THROAT (new edition, Memoir)
Lynne Olson. FREEDOM'S DAUGHTERS: THE UNSUNG HEROINES OF CIVIL RIGHTS, 1830-1970
Hilka Pietila & Jeanne Vickers. MAKING WOMEN MATTER: THE ROLE OF THE UN
Mary Robinson. EVERYBODY MATTERS: MY LIFE GIVING VOICE [from Ireland to the UN]
Stuart Schaar. EQBAL AHMAD: CRITICAL OUTSIDER IN A TURBULENT AGE
Lewis Steele. THE BUTLER'S CHILD: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Bryan Stevenson. JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE & REDEMPTION
especially recommended for part 2

Madeleine Albright. FASCISM: A WARNING
Michelle Alexander. THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS
Peter Balakian. THE BURNING TIGRIS: THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND AMERICA'S RESPONSE
Heidi Boghosian. SPYING ON DEMOCRACY: GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE, CORPORATE POWER, PUBLIC RESISTANCE
Blanche W Cook. THE DECLASSIFIED EISENHOWER
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. BLOOD ON THE BORDER: A MEMOIR OF THE CONTRA WAR
Chas Freeman. AMERICA'S MISADVENTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
David Fromkin. A PEACE TO END ALL PEACE: THE FALL OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE & THE CREATION OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST
Bob Herbert. LOSING OUR WAY: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF A TROUBLED AMERICA
Jeremy Scahill. DIRTY WARS: THE WORLD IS A BATTLEFIELD
Tim Wiener. ENEMIES: A HISTORY OF THE FBI
Tim Wiener. LEGACY OF ASHES: THE HISTORY OF THE CIA

especially recommended for part 3

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini. WOMEN BUILDING PEACE: WHAT THEY DO, WHY IT MATTERS
Bill Ayers. DEMAND THE IMPOSSIBLE: A RADICAL MANIFESTO
Ellen Chesler & Terry McGovern. WOMEN & GIRLS RISING: PROGRESS & RESISTANCE AROUND THE WORLD
Angela Davis. ABOLITION DEMOCRACY: BEYOND EMPIRE, PRISONS, TORTURE
also FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE [and other works]
Amy Goodman with David Goodman & Denis Moynihan. DEMOCRACY NOW: 20 YEARS COVERING THE MOVEMENTS CHANGING AMERICA
Van Jones. REBUILD THE DREAM
Alice Kessler-Harris & Maurizio Vaudagna, eds. DEMOCRACY AND THE WELFARE STATE: THE TWO WESTS IN THE AGE OF AUSTERITY
Les Leopold. RUNAWAY INEQUALITY [also see runaway inequality.org [inequality.org]]
Fereshteh Nourae-Simone. ON SHIFTING GROUND: MUSLIM WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL ERA
Frances Fox Piven. THE BREAKING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIAL COMPACT (1997) also CHALLENGING AUTHORITY (2006); other works by FFpiven
David Rothenberg. FORTUNE IN MY EYES: A MEMOIR OF BROADWAY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, POLITICAL PASSION
Larry Wittner. ONE WORLD OR NONE: A HISTORY OF THE WORLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT MOVEMENT 3 VOLS of Wittner's THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BOMB
Larry Wittner. WORKING FOR PEACE & JUSTICE, a memoir
see also splendid collection of prose and poetry: WE HAVE NOT BEEN MOVED: RESISTING RACISM AND MILITARISM IN 21st CENTURY AMERICA/ Elizabeth Martinez, Matt Meyer, Mandy Carter, eds