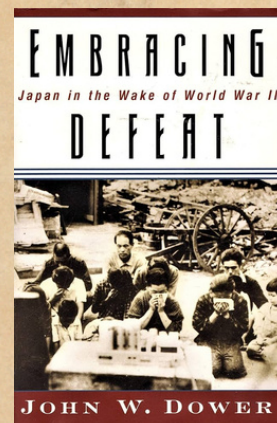


# STARTING OVER: JAPAN'S OCCUPATION YEARS

A NATIONAL ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS  
FEBRUARY 10 - APRIL 18, 2026

John W. Dower's seminal work, *Embracing Defeat* (2019), fundamentally reshaped understanding of the Occupation period and postwar Japan. It challenged conventional postwar historiography that narrated the Occupation as a top-down, largely American story of Japan's demilitarization, democratization, and reinvention as staunch US ally. By re-centering this story on Japanese voices and experiences and exploring psychological, cultural and social aspects of the Occupation, Dower reframed the period as dynamic process involving the occupiers and the occupied.

With *Embracing Defeat* as its core text, this seminar for secondary teachers focuses on the "demilitarization and democratization" years (1945-1947) of the US Occupation as Japanese experience and history.



## Course Format:

This course includes an Introductory Period and four two-week asynchronous units. Each unit is divided into a reading week and discussion week and includes a required pre-recorded or live (synchronous) lecture by a specialist, core text and primary source assignments. Optional three-module format: To accommodate spring breaks, participants may choose to complete three of the four units in this course, with Units 1 and 4 required, and a choice of either Unit 2 or 3.

## Course Schedule:

- **Intro period:** February 10-21, 2026. Optional webinar: The American story, Feb. 10.
- **Unit 1: Voices of the Occupation.** February 22-March 7, 2026. Required webinar: Mar 3
- **Unit 2: Imperial Democracy.** March 8-March 21, 2026. Required webinar: TBD
- **Unit 3: Whose Constitution?** March 22-April 4, 2026. Required pre-recorded lecture.
- **Unit 4: Guilt.** April 5-April 18, 2026. Required webinar: TBD

## Expectations and Benefits:

- Obtain a print copy of *Embracing Defeat* and begin reading prior to seminar start. Note: Audio version is not appropriate for this course.
- Participate in full course (four units) or shortened (three units) course.
- Participate in all live webinars.
- Submit short (2-3 pp) final paper and evaluation.
- Gain access to resources through course Moodle site.
- Receive Certificate for 24 to 32 contact hours.
- Earn completion award: \$90 for full four-module course; \$70 for three-module option.

## Eligibility:

Open to secondary teachers nationwide, with priority given to full-time, contract social studies teachers.  
Course limit: 25 teachers. Rolling admission.

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APPLY ONLINE AT:  
[tinyurl.com/TEAcourseregistration](https://tinyurl.com/TEAcourseregistration)



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