Rearrange the eight sentences below to form a coherent paragraph.

1. The problem, however, was that the same democracy was not protected and spread to all American citizens.
2. The United States’ involvement in the war was ostensibly to protect and spread democracy abroad.
3. According to Ovington, reconstruction should be a united effort of blacks and whites for progress and equality through which American society would be “reconstructed” along more democratic lines.
4. African Americans, in particular, faced social injustice and inequality, such as legal segregation and lynching.
5. She addresses the changes and demands most desired by African Americans.
6. African Americans and other oppressed groups, like women and workingmen, viewed the war and its aftermath as an opportunity to engender social change.
7. World War I created a social dilemma for all Americans.
8. The NAACP leader Mary White Ovington considers the period after WWI as a time for reconstruction.

Read the following paragraph. Is it coherent? If it is coherent, why is it so? If not, why?

White southerners particularly feared that returning African American soldiers would “foment unrest among their people,” “forget ‘their places’”—as members of an inferior race. The New Republic, a liberal white journal, agrees that the soldiers would necessarily be changed by the war. The change would be for the best. African Americans would stand up in their struggle for democracy and equality. Southern social institutions and systems could no longer be based upon fear. They needed to be based upon mutual service and obligation. The South had to assume greater responsibility for the “Negro’s civil and economic welfare.” Both Southern and Northern institutions fostered injustice. The institutions had to be reformed.
Read the following paragraph. Is it coherent? If it is coherent, why is it so? If not, why?

African Americans supported WWI with as much loyalty, passion, and patriotism as any other group of Americans. An article in the *McDowell Times*, a black West Virginia weekly, affirms that African Americans had a “glorious record of loyalty and faithful devotion to the country’s best interests.” Since they fought for democracy abroad, they could certainly fight for democracy at home. Ovington asserts that at the close of the war every oppressed group was “struggling to secure something of value for itself.” She writes, “Now, they [the oppressed] realize, while systems are fluid, before the structure of society becomes rigid again, is the opportunity to win the reality of democracy.” The ending of the war generated the opportune moment for social change; African Americans used the moment to advance their cause for justice and humanity. For Ovington, the best way to effect social change was through a process of reconstruction. African Americans who agreed with Ovington sought reconstruction along fourteen points which were analogous to President Wilson’s fourteen peace points: universal suffrage, better educational facilities, and abolition of the “Jim-Crow” system to name three. African Americans were looking to redefine their social position. They did not expect advantages; rather, they wanted equality, fair play, and impartial treatment and protection before the law. Yet, returning African American soldiers who fought for democracy could not expect democracy from the leaders in Washington. Ovington writes, “Our government is today in the hands of men inimical to [the African Americans] claims for citizenship, men who degrade the uniform while they degrade him.” She observes that the fight for democracy should have bound Americans together under a common cause; as one African American put it: “The uniform should be a reason for ceasing strife.” Instead, the close of the war created further discrimination. Ovington sets forth her method for progress: “Progress is won when people band
themselves together, conviction of the righteousness of their cause in their hearts.” Blacks and whites needed to unite and organize to secure “franchise, fair trial by jury, anti-lynching.” With collective action new friends could be made in Congress which could then pass new laws ending legal segregation and enforcing the 14th Amendment. By working to win each case as it arose, progress would be made. Gradually, racial discrimination would be “deconstructed” and democracy “reconstructed.” During WWI, NAACP membership increased dramatically across the United States. Ovington and most other writers agreed that a new spirit was emerging among African Americans. A new more aggressive leadership, such as Marcus Garvey who supported racial pride and black economic development, began to challenge the older more conservative leaders. They eschewed Du Bois’s message that they should “forget our special grievances and close our ranks shoulder to shoulder with our own white fellow citizens…that are fighting for democracy.” African Americans supported the war; nevertheless, many believed they could not close ranks while white Americans treated them as inferior, non-citizens. Organizations like the National Equal Rights League believed that African Americans could support the war and insist upon immediate action for “legal and civil rights along with other loyal citizens of the American public.” Thus, they were still allying with and fighting for democracy. Ovington argues that though African Americans had ceased being slaves, they had yet fully to become men and come into their own. The Messenger, a black socialist monthly, proclaims that the ‘New Negro’ wanted not rhetoric and praise, but justice and fair play. Collective united action for social equality and justice, believed in by Ovington and many like her, laid the groundwork for Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. The struggle for equality and progress continues to this day. Their struggle is now our struggle.