Begin this Week Two Activity by reading pages 38 to 78 in the Politics for Young Americans book found under the Content tab of this course.  Items 52 and 53 in the Nordhoff book make the following assertions:

52. In order to maintain a free or popular government, it is necessary that these powers shall be lodged in different hands; that the body which makes the laws shall have nothing to do with their enforcement; and that the judges shall be a body independent of both

the legislative and the executive branches of the government. Where this division of powers is well established and carefully guarded, if at the same time the nation has sufficient intelligence and public spirit to hold the rulers it chooses to a strict account, a people's liberties are reasonably secure, and they are able to make their government as honest and efficient as they please to have.

53. For at the elections they are able to remove those legislators who enacted bad laws, or that executive officer who carelessly or wickedly failed in the proper enforcement of the laws. Thus the people not only rule, but are easily able to distinguish where the fault of misgovernment lies, and to apply the remedy. In our own government, this great division of powers is very clearly made: in the Federal Government, Congress enacts the laws, but cannot execute or enforce them; the President enforces the laws, but he does not make them; and the courts of the United States construe the Federal laws, and apply them in disputed cases.

     In this passage, Nordhoff introduces the concept of "Separation of Powers", in other words, dividing power into as many hands as possible to prevent the accumulation of too much power in the hands of a few people.  Never in my life have I seen such controversy over the legitimacy of our Federal government.  Despite the protestations of the legacy media, significant evidence has been released by both Arizona and Georgia that their elections were both inaccurate and fraught with error.  The implications of these rolling revelations is that power in our country has been concentrated in the hands of a few powerful individuals who have the ability to coordinate election manipulation in several states simultaneously.  Rasmussen polls--one of the most accurate in terms of their research--currently reports that over 50% of American voters believe our elections were stolen in 2020.  Given the lack of faith in the legitimacy of our elected institutions,  do the people still have the ability to remove "bad legislators" from office?  Has the system of elections deprived the American people of the institutional control over those in office--do government officials still work for the people or for themselves?  Predict what Nordhoff would say if he could observe the current situation in our country.  Would he even recognize the nation we now have?  Elaborate on your position, either positive or negative.  Remember, in this class, we are all free to believe what we want, however, a good citizen must be able to rationally defend those positions to others.  Civil discourse is the hallmark of a free society, so let's learn to practice that skill.