Summary

The chapters #5 and #6 touch upon the questions of immigrants' success in business, their behavior, and ways of adaptation to the American culture. The author gives a lot of examples to let the reader imagine and compare different situations. In the fifth chapter, the attention is payed to Joe Flom, Alexander Bickel, and people who have similar destiny. The examined personalities are mostly Jewish immigrants who came to America at the end of the 19th – the beginning of the 20th century. Their stories look like the “rags-to-riches” stories, where desperately poor immigrants receive a chance to study, work, and lead a normal life as well as Native Americans. However, the author lays an emphasis on the fact that some of them became truly successful lawyers, doctors, and garment makers whereas others did not get a chance to develop their own business in a proper manner. For sure, everybody is interested to know why; the author gives a certain explanation, adding facts and statistics. The reason of success or failure is time, place, and conditions when personalities were born and raised up. The Great Depression and the Second World War influenced it; therefore, people who were born before 1911 had no chance to assert themselves.

The sixth chapter examines the situation in Harlan, the city in Kentucky. The special stress is made rather on immigrants and their cultural adaptation than on success stories which are represented in the previous chapter. The author brings up the topic of the cultures of honor and links it to the explanation of the criminality pattern in South America. This part of America is tightly inhabited by Scotch-Irish immigrants, who come from the regions where cultural prescriptions are authoritative forces. For such people, shooting does not seem to be a
crime if it happened for the sake of reputation. As a result, it is possible to see that attachment to the culture can influence the life of immigrants in another country a lot. In conclusion, it is the primary idea of both chapters, because the author tried to show the connection between human backgrounds and his/her self-development successfully completing this task.