After two decades of deliberation, the architects of the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples chose not to delimit the theoretical or lived bounds of “indigeneity” to a particular set of qualifications, thus leaving room for Native peoples worldwide to self-identify as “indigenous” in accordance with their particular needs and interests. Highlighting the case of Brazil, I draw on historiographical, ecological, and creative narratives surrounding major rivers in South America, India, and the United States.

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