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Reflection #7: Reading Experience of "The Great River" by Bruce Upholt.

In *The Great River*, Bruce Upholt describes the Mississippi river as an entity onto itself. The river is given somewhat of a personality; being described as winding and admirable by the masses. Upholt gives context to its discovery as he details the treacherous expeditions that early American settlers undertook. In addition to this, the idealized version of the rugged mountain-man is challenged, as Upholt describes the settlers as gentlemen and educated people of the upper class.

Upholt writes a large amount of the text in reference to Thomas Jefferson's American dream. He describes this dream as an opposition to European ideas of nation building; seeing massive cities such as London and Paris as sores on a pristine landscape. This gives context to the modern United States, as much of the country is like Jefferson's ideal nation.

Another reoccurring topic of the passage is the human cost of development. Upholt talks at length about the numerous people that have suffered due to American imperialism; from Haitian slaves brought to grow food in Louisiana to the many native tribes that were slaughtered in the pursuit of expansion. His tone when speaking of such tragedy is that of indifference, as is the way we are thought American history

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