

Q How did cultural process help in creating a sense of collective belonging in India? OR
How had a variety of cultural process developed a sense of collective belonging in India during 19th century?

* Personification of Bharat Mata →

Image of Bharat Mata was first created by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. Abanindranath Tagore painted his famous image of Bharat Mata, painted portrayed as an ascetic figure; she is calm, composed, divine & spiritual.

* National song → In the 1870s Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote 'Vande Mataram' as a hymn to the motherland.

* Folklore → In late nineteenth-century India, nationalists began recording folk tales sung by bards & they toured villages to gather folk songs & legends. These tales, they believed, gave a true picture of traditional culture that had been corrupted & damaged by outside forces. It was essential to preserve this folk tradition in order to discover one's national identity & restore a sense of pride in one's past. In Bengal, Rabindranath Tagore himself began collecting ballads, nursery rhymes & myths, & led the movement of folk revival.

* Use of icons & symbols →

During the swadeshi movement in Bengal, a tricolour flag (red, green & yellow) was designed. It had, 8 lotuses representing 8 provinces of British, & a crescent moon representing Hindus & Muslims. By 1921, Gandhi had designed the swaraj flag, tricolour (red, green & white) & had a spinning wheel in the centre, representing the Gandhian ideal of self-help.

* Re-interpretation of history

The British saw Indians as backward & primitive, incapable of governing themselves. In response, Indians began looking into the past to discover India's great achievements. They wrote about the glorious developments in ancient times when art & architecture, science & mathematics, religion & culture, law & philosophy, crafts & trade had flourished. This glorious time, in their view, was followed by a history of decline, when India was colonised.

Q Name the writer of Novel Anandamath.

A Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Q What did the spinning wheel on the Swaraj Flag represent?

A It represented the Gandhian ideal of self-help.

Q What was the main point of difference between Congress & the muslim league?

The main point of difference between the Congress & the muslim league was over the question of representation in the future assemblies that were to be elected.