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India's Republic Day, a yearly celebration of the writing of India's Constitution, marks a monumental achievement for Indian independence and, by necessity, a rebuke against British colonialism. The Indian Constitution was juxtaposed against British tyrannical rule, notably by affording the Indian people "equal rights, freedom from exploitation, freedom of religion, freedom of culture and education, and a ban on 'untouchability'." As a first-generation Indian immigrant, I am implicitly a beneficiary of this document. The Constitution provided the foundation for a forward-thinking Parliament that created policies that allowed farmers like my grandpa and dad to buy subsidized fertilizers and import advanced machinery ; at the same time, it ~~and~~ enabled women like my mom to receive a state-funded education. Without a secular and inclusive Constitution, my parents would not have had the opportunities to get an education, feed their families and consequently ~~been able to afford to~~ settle in Canada. Republic Day reminds me of the British colonial shackles that have been removed and how my life is enriched by this reformist document I understand what you're saying here but you are talking about freedom From The Colony; what. Does that mean in terms of decolonizing attitudes which are less about a rejection of British ideology and more about an affirmation of Indian beliefs, two very different things.

Many Diwali (Hindu New Year) traditions stem from legends and myths filled with symbolism that have translated to celebrations today. Participating in the culture around Indian mythology and its rich tapestry of fantastical creatures and righteous heroes ~~has helped~~ me preserve an aspect of my Indian identity could you be a bit more specific about which aspect you were talking about? is it about a spiritual connection to

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your roots? Please develop.. Celebrating Diwali is an affront to British colonization, which sought to strip Indians of their identity and make them “Indian by blood and by colour but British in their thoughts, mindset and tastes.” India’s ongoing journey to dismantling the entrenched vestiges of British colonial rule will take the combined work of generations, of which I am one of many. I was hoping for a lot more reflection in regard to what decolonization looks like for you as a young person of Indian background; instead you focus much more on the struggle against the British values but you didn't really articulate what it is about the Indian values that need to be reclaimed.

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