

# **Historical Imagination in the Novels of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

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**Abstract:** *Historical imagination in literature serves as a bridge between factual history and creative storytelling, allowing authors to reinterpret the past while addressing contemporary social, cultural, and psychological concerns. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, a prominent Indo-American novelist, utilizes historical imagination in her novels to explore the complexities of identity, migration, gender, and cultural memory. Through her narratives, she reconstructs historical events and social contexts, blending myth, folklore, and historical realities to craft rich, multidimensional worlds. Her works, such as *The Mistress of Spices*, *Sister of My Heart*, and *Queen of Dreams*, demonstrate a profound engagement with history that transcends chronological constraints, enabling readers to experience the emotional and social nuances of past eras. By examining the interplay of memory, myth, and history in her novels, this study highlights Divakaruni's unique approach to historical imagination, emphasizing its role in shaping cultural consciousness and enhancing narrative depth.*

**Keywords:** Historical Imagination, Novels, Cultural Memory, Identity, Migration