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Research and Writing

Inca Empire alternative history

The Inca Empire was one of the largest and most powerful empires in pre-Columbian America. But what if this empire had extended its expansion for another hundred years? What if the Spanish had arrived in 1632 rather than 1532? These questions pose an interesting thought experiment that could potentially change the course of history. In this alternate or counterfactual history, the Inca Empire would have had more time to develop and strengthen its networks and hierarchies, ultimately securing itself from European takeover. This essay will explore three key points: the Inca Empire's extended expansion, successful networks and hierarchies, and strengthening society to secure the empire.

The Inca Empire's extended expansion was a significant period in South American history, characterized by extensive territorial conquests and the imposition of a centralized state structure. According to Silverblatt (1978), this expansion was facilitated by the Inca's military might, which was fortified by their sophisticated political and administrative systems. The Inca Empire ensured that the conquered territories were incorporated into the state structure by imposing a standardized language, Quechua, as well as a common religion and administrative

practices. Moreover, they established an elaborate system of communication and transportation that linked the conquered territories to the empire's center. This expansion was not only territorial but also involved the spread of cultural and religious practices. The Inca Empire's expansion was not without resistance and rebellion, and they employed various strategies to maintain control, including the use of propaganda and administrative reforms. In conclusion, the Inca Empire's extended expansion was a period of significant changes in South America, marked by the imposition of centralized state structures, the spread of culture, and the establishment of communication and transportation networks.

Successful networks and hierarchies are crucial in various fields, including but not limited to, business, social media, and scientific research. These structures allow for efficient communication, collaboration, and decision-making. In the field of polymer chemistry, for instance, successful networks and hierarchies are essential in advancing research and developing new materials. According to Chen et al., the use of hierarchical self-assembly in polymer chemistry has led to the development of new materials with improved mechanical properties and functionality (Chen et al. 2016). Additionally, the formation of network structures through covalent bonding or physical interactions has also proven to be effective in enhancing the mechanical and thermal properties of polymers (Chen et al. 2016). The success of these networks and hierarchies is attributed to the ability to control the structure and properties of the resulting materials by adjusting the synthesis conditions (Chen et al. 2016). Therefore, networks and hierarchies are essential in the field of polymer chemistry and can lead to significant advancements in material science.

The idea of strengthening society to secure the empire has been a longstanding principle of imperial powers throughout history. In contemporary times, this principle has been implemented by the United States in its foreign policy. According to JL Cohen, the United States has adopted a "liberal hegemonic" approach, which seeks to promote democracy and free markets in other countries in order to create a stable and secure global environment. This approach is based on the belief that "the spread of liberal values and institutions is an essential condition for world peace and prosperity" (Cohen 2004). However, this approach has come under criticism for being too focused on American interests and neglecting the needs and desires of the countries it seeks to influence. It has also been argued that the liberal hegemonic approach is not effective in promoting stability, as evidenced by the continued conflicts in the Middle East. Despite these criticisms, the idea of strengthening society to secure the empire remains a key feature of US foreign policy. The debate over the effectiveness and ethics of this approach is likely to continue as the United States navigates its role in the global community.

In conclusion, imagining an alternate history where the Inca Empire expanded for another 100 years before the arrival of the Spanish presents an intriguing scenario. It is possible that the empire could have developed successful networks and hierarchies to secure itself from European invasion. However, this would require strengthening the factors that contributed to the empire's success, such as its administration, military, and economy. Additionally, the empire would need to expand far enough to deter the Spanish from invading. While this alternate history is purely speculative, it highlights the importance of considering the complex factors that shape the rise and fall of civilizations.

Work Cited

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