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In imagining an alternate history where the Inca Empire extended for another 100 years until 1632, it is necessary to consider the factors that allowed for the Spanish invasion to occur and what changes could have been made to prevent it. One major factor was the vulnerability of the Inca Empire due to internal divisions and instability following the death of the emperor Huayna Capac and the subsequent civil war between his two sons, Huascar and Atahualpa. In this alternate history, it is possible that the Inca Empire could have avoided such instability by establishing a clearer succession system and ensuring that the empire was not overly reliant on a single emperor.

Another key factor that allowed the Spanish to conquer the Inca Empire was their technological and military superiority. The Incas were not as advanced in weaponry and tactics as the Spanish, and they were also vulnerable to European diseases that the Spanish brought with them. To prevent European takeover, the Inca Empire would need to strengthen its military and technological capabilities and develop new strategies for combatting European weapons and diseases. This would require investment in education and research, as well as the establishment of trade networks to access new technologies and resources.

In addition to military and technological advancements, the Inca Empire would need to strengthen its political and economic systems to ensure that it was not overly reliant on any single leader or resource. This would involve the development of more complex hierarchies and networks to distribute power and resources more evenly throughout the empire. The Inca road system was already an impressive feat of engineering and could be further developed to facilitate trade and communication between different regions of the empire. The Inca system of mit'a, which required citizens to work for the state for a certain number of days each year, could also be refined to ensure that it was more equitable and sustainable.

Despite these improvements, it is still possible that the Inca Empire would eventually come into conflict with European powers. In this scenario, the Inca Empire would need to establish alliances with other indigenous groups in the region to create a united front against European invasion. The Inca Empire had already established trade networks and diplomatic relationships with neighboring groups, and these could be further developed to create a more robust regional alliance.

In conclusion, the Inca Empire could have potentially avoided the Spanish invasion if it had addressed internal divisions, invested in military and technological advancements, and developed more complex hierarchies and networks to distribute power and resources. However, even with these improvements, it is still possible that the Inca Empire would have come into conflict with European powers, and it would have needed to establish regional alliances to prevent European takeover.

Sources:

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