

The Incan Empire flourished from approximately 1200 to 1533AD and was the largest ancient civilization in pre-Columbian America.<sup>1</sup> However, this great kingdom met its end at the hands of the Spanish in 1532, as the Spanish sought out wealth in the territory. For a moment, consider the outcome if the Inca Empire was able to continue its expansion for another 100 years whether the same would be true. Although, it is difficult to predict the outcome, one can theorize the possibility based on what is already known about the Inca and the Spanish. There are several factors to consider: military strength, leadership, resources, geography and public support.

Firstly, it is important to note that the Inca Empire was already facing internal issues such as succession struggles, rebellions, and resource depletion at the time of the Spanish invasion in the 16th century<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, even if the empire had continued to expand, it would have likely faced some internal challenges. The Inca Empire was ruled by a strong central authority, with a complex bureaucracy and a sophisticated system of communication and record-keeping. If the empire had continued to expand, they may have been able to strengthen their leadership and governance structures. However, the Spanish had experienced military leaders and commanders, as well as political and economic leaders who were able to leverage their power and resources to achieve their goals<sup>3</sup>.

However, it is important to consider the technological advancements of the Europeans during this time. The Spanish had guns, horses, and other advanced weaponry that the Inca did not have. This technology advantage would have been difficult for the Inca to overcome. In order to secure

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<sup>1</sup> The Inca Empire: History, Society & Culture: [https://www.ancient.eu/Inca\\_Empire/](https://www.ancient.eu/Inca_Empire/)

<sup>2</sup> The Fall of the Inca Empire: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Fall-of-the-Inca-Empire>

<sup>3</sup> IBID

the empire from European takeover, the Inca would have needed to strengthen their military capabilities and technological advancements. They may have also needed to establish stronger diplomatic relations with neighboring empires and countries to form alliances against the Spanish. A nation's military strength is a crucial factor in determining the outcome of a war. This includes factors such as the size of the military, the quality of its weaponry, and the training and experience of its soldiers.

Another factor to consider is the societal structures of the Inca Empire. The empire was based on a rigid social hierarchy with the Inca at the top and the common people at the bottom. This system may have hindered their ability to adapt and innovate in response to external threats. If the Inca had been able to promote social mobility and foster a more innovative culture, it could have helped the empire to better resist the Spanish invasion. The quality of leadership within a nation can also be a crucial factor in determining the outcome of a war. Strong and competent leaders can inspire their troops, make strategic decisions, and effectively manage resources, while weak or incompetent leaders may hinder a nation's ability to win a war.

Here are some other factors to consider in the scenario<sup>4</sup>:

- **Military Strength:** The Inca Empire had a large and well-organized military force, but it was primarily focused on maintaining internal control and defense against neighboring tribes. If the Inca had continued to expand their empire, they may have been able to develop a more sophisticated military and become more adept at fighting in open-field battles. However, the Spanish had significant military advantages over the Inca, including superior weaponry, tactics, and technology, as well as the support of native allies.

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<sup>4</sup> Inca Empire: Facts and History: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/inca-empire>

- **Geographical Factors:** The Inca Empire was centered in the Andes Mountains, which presented significant challenges for both the Inca and the Spanish. The rugged terrain made it difficult for large armies to maneuver and fight effectively. However, the Spanish had experience fighting in mountainous regions in Europe, and they may have been able to adapt their tactics to the Andean environment.
- **Economic Resources:** The Inca Empire had a well-developed economy, based primarily on agriculture, mining, and trade. If the empire had continued to expand, they may have been able to access new resources and increase their economic power. However, the Spanish had a significant economic advantage, with access to gold and silver mines in the Americas, as well as a powerful navy that controlled trade routes across the Atlantic.
- **Public Support:** The Inca Empire had a complex social and political system, with a rigid hierarchy and a strong sense of loyalty to the ruling elite. If the empire had continued to expand, they may have been able to build greater public support for their campaigns of conquest. However, the Spanish were able to exploit internal divisions within the Inca Empire, and they were able to win support from native allies who were dissatisfied with Inca rule.

In conclusion, while it is impossible to know for sure what would have happened if the Inca Empire had continued to expand for another 100 years, it is likely that they would have faced internal challenges and still struggled to resist the Spanish invasion. However, with strengthened military and technological capabilities, strong diplomatic alliances, and a more innovative and adaptable societal structure, the Inca may have had a better chance of securing their empire from European takeover.