

Marissa Morris

Lyndell O'Hara

HIS113

4/4/2023

Chapter 11: Traditional Worlds III: Separate Circuits, 400 – 1500

The biggest pre-Columbian empire in the Americas, the Inca Empire, or Tawantinsuyu, extended from what is now Colombia to Chile and Argentina. However, it is difficult to say for sure how much more the Inca Empire may have extended as it was still growing at the time of the Spanish conquest in the 16th century.

Conquistador Francisco Pizarro's successful Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire was made possible for a few reasons, including better Spanish military strategy and technology as well as illnesses introduced by the Europeans that decimated the local people. The Inca polity was also weakened and left open to Spanish conquest by internal conflicts and political instability within the Inca Empire, such as the civil war between Atahualpa and Huascar.

The Inca Empire would likely have been better prepared to survive the Spanish invasion if it had continued to grow and secure its holdings. The military struggle against the Spanish soldiers may have been more effective if the empire had been bigger and more unified. Yet, the Spanish conquistadors possessed several advantages that were crucial in their conquest of the Inca Empire, thus it is hard to determine for sure if a greater Inca Empire would have been able to completely fight the Spanish invasion.

Some factors of society would need to be strengthened to secure the empire from European takeover such as fighting off prospective European invasions, the Inca Empire would

need to improve its military. This can entail strengthening their military strategy and tactics, training their troops, and improving their equipment. They would need to be equipped to fight any potential European invasion attempts on their land, Alliances, and diplomacy: The Inca Empire may have improved its diplomatic ties with other indigenous peoples or nearby civilizations to create alliances that could offer mutual defense against European forces. Building a support system across various groups may entail signing treaties, starting families, or joining into trading deals, Effective leadership, and governance were essential to the Inca Empire's capacity to preserve social harmony and stability. This can entail creating powerful institutions, rules, and governance frameworks that support justice, fairness, and accountability. Making strategic decisions and handling both internal and external issues would need effective leadership. Communication and information collecting: To keep track of and react to possible threats from European countries, the Inca Empire may enhance its communication and intelligence-gathering capabilities. This might entail creating efficient communication networks, as well as sending out scouts, spies, and informants to learn more about the plans and deeds of European explorers or invaders.