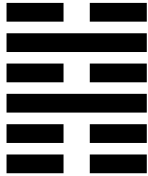




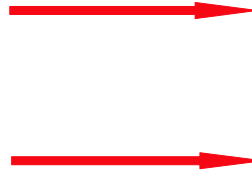
**2023-4-18 Does Putin's vision match geopolitical reality? 21-
1,6 > 16 < 39**

21 Gnawing, grinding > 16 Armies Marching < 39 Impasse

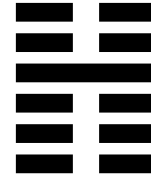
Nuclear 39



Primary 21



Derived 16



IMAGE

***Thunder within Lightning
Decisive cutting through***

JUDGMENT

Hexagram #39's geopolitical realities involve Impasse, intractable obstacles. They must be gnawed through like the grinding military campaign in Ukraine.

Hexagram 16 reveals that the #21 dynamic, stopping encroachments (L1) and exposing hypocrisies and injustice (L6), may involve military conflict positively furthering 21's core mission: Cutting Through all #39 obstacles no matter how challenging or deep-rooted. Invasive Thunder ☳ movement balanced by Earth's binding ☷ alliances. Destabilizing Lightning ☳ balanced by decisive Thunder ☳ action.

Everything fits together just so even if hard choices are being made involving hard actions to effect the desired result: Cutting Through.

*We have been dancing this way for millennia
Good and bad, friend and enemy, enlightened and degraded.*

We know no other way.

Sometimes it is time to celebrate.

Sometimes it is time punish.

*Only by resolutely meeting intractable obstacles
Can we climb any mountain and ford every river
even if Armies must be set marching to do so.*



First Thoughts

First, this is the same Hexagram as the second throw querying Russia and China's geopolitical alliance (link). The lines depict two jaws with something in between that must be bitten through. Thunder' lower jar moves up whilst Mountain's upper jaw stays still. Some things need to be pushed forward, others to be restrained or stopped. The top and bottom lines changing indicate something ambivalent at beginning and end, so perhaps that all that matters is gnawing, or biting through what is in the middle, without thought of past or future. In any case, those changing lines create #16, Thunder erupting out of Earth, described as both celebratory music and drumming and 'setting armies marching,' which has been ongoing already plus more enlistment drives were announced recently, all of which endorse Putin's policies. Thunder below in 21 reincarnates as Thunder above in 16: the armies change outer reality with their decisive actions. Nuclear 39 means Impasse: blocked by a ravine at the foot of an impassable mountain one has to stop and regroup. There will be impasses and setbacks but these are what are being gnawed through in 21. No matter how intractable the obstacle - in this case taming an old world order that refuses to allow new players to the geopolitical table - perseverance is the order of the day, justice must be administered and new Law established.

YI TEXT

Decision

Eradicating: Prosperous and smooth. Favorable to administer justice.

There is something in the mouth. It is called eradication. Through eradication, prosperity and smoothness come. The firm and the yielding are equally divided. The movement and the brightness are clearly shown. Thunder and lightning are united and manifest their brilliance. The yielding is in the central place (L5) and rules in its high position. Although the place is not appropriate, It is still favorable to administer justice.

Commentary on the Symbol

Thunder and lightning. An image of Eradicating. In correspondence with this, The ancient kings clarified the penalties and strengthened the law. [Huang]

Ch'eng-tzu says that thunder and lightning are always found together, hence their trigrams go together to give the idea of union intended in Discernment (21): one trigram symbolizing majesty and the other intelligence. [Gnostic]

Changing Lines [Huang]

1. Initial Nine ***Feet in stocks. Toes hurt. No fault. One is unable to walk further.***
6. Top Nine ***Wearing a cangue.* Ears disappear. Misfortune. Honest advice jars on the ears.***
* Large wooden stocks fastened around the neck to which hands were padlocked. 21 Punishment.

The first changing line is stocks at the feet preventing movement - such as into Donbass. The last changing line prevents the hegemon's head/strategic area from exerting further geopolitical influence by unmasking hypocrisies and refusal to listen to 'honest' advice making them 'agreement-incapable.'



16 Enthusiasm:

It furthers one to install helpers and to set armies marching. [Wilhelm]

[Wu:] **Thunder breaks out above the earth with a boom; this is Merriment.**

Thus the ancient kings used music to praise virtuous accomplishments and made grand offerings to the Supreme Being to be accompanied by their ancestors.

Trigram Analysis

Lower: Unbalanced Thunder in 1st place of #21 changing to Earth in 16:

Unbalanced Thunder has to do with movement, change that is chaotic, aggressive, harmful. Balanced Earth involves cooperation, nurturing, support, yielding - that which creates good human society of people living together in harmony. For Putin the West has been blocking their geopolitical development so it's time to build alliances among many other polities in the Rest of the World (Earth) in order to counter these aggressions.

Upper: Unbalanced Mountain in 6th place of #21 changing to Thunder in 16:

Unbalanced Mountain involves being too stuck, too rigid, too immobile, too unresponsive. Balanced Thunder is about forward momentum, movement, change, decisive action. From Putin's pov, the West has become intractable and domineering; they cannot be moved or negotiated with. Determined action is needed.

The Nuclear of 39 is 64, the last one, Before Completion which is a not properly balanced ending given the first line is Yin. But still: there is a sense of getting close to an ending.

Line Analysis

Line 4 is what is being bitten through but Line 5 is the host/ruler, even though Yin. So things are out of ideal order and it takes a process to adjust them, either decisive action (Thunder below) or burning them away with insight or, when necessary, armour, one of Fire's associations because of it's intensity on the outside and emptiness within. Line 4 is the Line of the Minister who assist the Ruler. In some sense most Western leaders today are more like Ministers than Kings (because they serve higher masters hidden from the People), so the resolution Biting Through ideally should achieve will restore proper order in society once the corrupted powers and agencies in the 4th line have been gnawed through and their spell broken.

Heaven Earth Man

HEAVEN:	Lightning and Thunder	☳ - ☳	Young Yin	55	Abundance, King at Midday
EARTH:	Thundering Earth	☷ - ☷	Young Yang	24	Return to Sanity, new phase
MAN:	Steady hard work	☳ - ☳	Young Yin	39	Impasse, obstruction
	☳ ☷ ☳ ☷	☳ ☷ ☳ ☷			

HEAVEN Time for Greatness

EARTH: Time for New Beginnings, return to fundamentals

MAN: Dealing with darkness and difficulties, as per #21: gnawing through obstacles.

Interesting: Heaven's trigrams are reverse of 21's Thunder; Lightning and Earth's trigrams are the reverse of 16's Earth and Thunder. Things fitting together well.



NOTES

- The Cast is indicating being in the middle of a process. It does not really look far into the future. Doing this is already a huge undertaking. The past is gone. The future is unknown. Gnawing through is the task at hand and all that matters now.
- The West is 'agreement-incapable' therefore the time for negotiation has passed.
- Everything fits together in this Reading very nicely - especially the trigrams in HEM.
- 16 has the same Nuclear 39, making it more significant in the overall dynamic.
- L1 & L6: once the upper and lower jaws stop gnawing, 16 Enthusiasm results. This is the Hexagram of Celebration, including armies marching to beating drums!
- #16 Installing helpers: Putin has been steadily building alliances world wide - BRICS etc.

Trigram Analysis

Below/Inner:*	☳ Thunder	Impact, change, direction, majesty
*Unbalanced:		Impatient, impulsive, aggressive, spreading chaos
<i>Below Derived</i>	☷ Earth	<i>Sane society, cooperation, nurturing</i>
Above/Outer:	☲ Fire	Connection, brilliance, lightning, intelligence
*Unbalanced		Inflamed, fickle, disconnected, armour and weapons
<i>Above Derived</i>	☳ Thunder	Decisive action, armies marching, punishment
<i>Nuclear Below</i>	☶ Mountain	<i>Stillness, stopping</i>
<i>Baoti Lower</i>	☲ Fire	<i>disconnection, fickleness, inflamed</i>
<i>Nuclear Above</i>	☵ Water	<i>Turmoil, heavy matters, work, danger, thieves, treachery</i>
<i>Baoti Upper</i>	☲ Fire	<i>disconnection, fickleness, inflamed</i>

Summation

There is a clear story line: 21 means it's time to 'bite the bullet' by gnawing through various long-standing issues. In the Donbass there is a slow war of attrition with superior Russian artillery which many pundits often described as 'grinding down' their adversary, as suggested by 21's notion of 'gnawing.' Geopolitically, there is an epochal shift underway. The Derived is interesting because the notion of Enthusiasm is coupled with that of setting armies marching. This latter being described as celebratory indicates that Putin's actions are on the right track, and since they match his rhetoric, the Query's question about whether or not his approach is realist is well answered.

Nuclear 39 depicts difficult obstacles as 21's inner process. Indeed, it is likely because 39 dwells within 21 that it is regarded as a stern, decisive Hexagram. So situations offered up by 39 must be gnawed through in 21 even if, as the Changing Lines and the Derived Hexagram 16 suggest, this involves meting out punishment or indeed military action.

Since 21 represents a process, or path, rather than result, or fruition, the overall sense here is that it will take quite some time; or put another way, it is not necessary to be overly concerned about what the future might bring because first long-term obstacles inherited from the past must be gnawed through. Only once that process is complete will any future prospects clearly emerge. Until then: gnawing!

In any case, the alignment of the Hexagrams with the ongoing situation indicate that indeed Putin's expressed speech, actions and result are in accord with each other. This is no small thing.