

# **Eviscerating Roman Romachev's "Partition of Asiatic Turkey" Post: A Denial-and-Deception Teardown**

## **TL;DR**

- Roman Romachev, a former FSB officer and founder of the Moscow private-intelligence firm R-Techno, tells Armenians that a 1924 book proves France and Britain "betrayed" them – while concealing that the book itself is a Soviet government publication assembled from tsarist archives that documents Imperial Russia as a full

co-author of the very partition scheme he blames on the West. The move is textbook accusation-in-a-mirror.

- The historical record is unambiguous: Russia negotiated for Constantinople, the Straits, and the Armenian vilayets under the Constantinople (1915), Sazonov–Paléologue (1916), and Sykes–Picot (1916) agreements; the Bolsheviks then armed Kemalist Turkey and signed away Kars, Ardahan, Mount Ararat/Surmalu, and Nakhichevan in the 1921 Treaties of Moscow and Kars – the largest documented betrayals of Armenia of the period.
- Romachev's post is one node in a documented, Kremlin-coordinated information offensive against Armenia in 2025–2026, timed to the June 2026 parliamentary election and built to drive a wedge between Yerevan and

the West as Armenia abandons the CSTO and arms itself with French weapons. Assessment: the post is deliberate influence work, almost certainly aligned with that campaign.

## Key Findings

- **The cited book demolishes its own thesis.** "Раздел Азиатской Турции" (The Partition of Asiatic Turkey), edited by E.A. Adamov, Moscow, Litizdat NKID, 1924, carries the title-page line "Printed by commission of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs." [djvu](#) Adamov headed the Soviet foreign commissariat's archive. The book's own foreword states that the documents were "kept before the revolution in the secret archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" [djvu](#) – the tsarist MID – and that "Russia's

claims were made the occasion and the basis for proceeding to the realization of the Western powers' claims in the Asiatic possessions of Turkey." [djvu](#) Romachev waves a Soviet exposé of Russian imperial diplomacy and calls it proof of Western guilt.

- **Russia was a full partitioning party, never a bystander.** Foreign Minister Sergey Sazonov secured Constantinople and the Straits for Russia in the secret Constantinople Agreement of March 1915, and the Armenian vilayets of Erzurum, Trebizond, Van, and Bitlis under the Sazonov–Paléologue exchange of April 1916, given in return for Russian assent to Sykes–Picot. Sykes and Georges-Picot brought their partition memorandum to Sazonov in Petrograd in March 1916. [Genocide](#)

- **The Bolsheviks then betrayed Armenia directly.** Lenin's government sent Mustafa Kemal gold and arms — 200.6 kg of gold bullion and tens of thousands of rifles across 1920–1922 — and in the Treaties of Moscow (March 1921) and Kars (October 1921) handed Turkey the Kars and Ardahan provinces, the Surmalu district with Mount Ararat, and placed Nakhichevan under Azerbaijani protection barred from transfer to Armenia. The Treaty of Sèvres (1920) and "Wilsonian Armenia" — territory that, per Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian writing in The Armenian Weekly, "encompassed approximately 155,000 square kilometers" and on which "a viable, united Armenian State had been created on paper" — died in the same period.

- **The contemporary timing is the tell.**  
Armenia froze CSTO participation in February 2024 and now declares itself "outside" the bloc; Russian peacekeepers stood aside during Azerbaijan's September 2023 offensive, after which 101,848 people, including 30,000 children – more than 80 percent of Nagorno-Karabakh's roughly 120,000 inhabitants – had fled by 16 October 2023 (UNHCR figures cited by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect; Armenian PM press secretary Nazeli Baghdasaryan reported 100,417 arrivals by 30 September 2023). France has become a frontline arms supplier with €278.5 million in 2023–2024 defense contracts. Romachev's "the French and British betrayed you" lands precisely as France arms Armenia and Russia does not.

## Details

### Who is speaking, and why it matters

Roman Vladimirovich Romachev, born Moscow 1977, served in the FSB from 1997 to 2002 [Json](#) in the counterintelligence department of Directorate "R," [Techbook](#) and founded the private-intelligence firm R-Techno in 2003. He describes himself as an FSB reserve officer. He teaches courses titled "Information Wars and Hybrid Conflicts" at Russian universities and authors books on intelligence tradecraft. [Techbook](#) His Telegram channel @romanromachev cross-posts to MAX. His public commentary runs to a consistent pro-Kremlin line – accusing Ukrainian special services of buying Russian Telegram channels, [Telegram](#) branding Western corporations terrorist

organizations, blaming the US and UK for nurturing terrorist groups. [Telegram](#)

A man who teaches hybrid-conflict technique and trades in HUMINT and information operations does not stumble into a historical misreading. He selects sources for effect. That professional background frames everything that follows.

## **The post, dismantled move by move**

### **Opening frame – manufactured nostalgia and agency displacement.**

"People who don't know their past have no future!" sets a tone of paternal concern. The line presumes Armenians have lost their own history and need a Russian to restore it. The claim that Armenian history "will be written by their Western partners," and that Armenians

will "remember and know only what their master allows them to," displaces Armenian agency entirely. Armenians, in this telling, do not choose; they are programmed by a "master." The technique strips a nation of self-determination precisely while claiming to defend it.

**The book as source laundering.**

Romachev points to "The Partition of Asiatic Turkey" as "not just a book" but "a collection of historical documents, telegrams, notes, maps, testimonies." The framing is deliberate. A reader hears "primary documents" and lowers his guard. Almost no one in his Armenian audience will open a 1924 Russian diplomatic compilation printed in 1,500 copies. The citation does the persuading; the contents stay unread. That gap between the authority of a cited document and the audience's inability or

unwillingness to check it is the mechanism of source laundering.

The contents, when read, indict Russia. The book is "Раздел Азиатской Турции," edited by E.A. Adamov, published by Litizdat NKID – the publishing arm of the Soviet People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs – in 1924. Adamov ran the NKID's General Archive from 1920 and later held a doctorate in historical sciences. [Allbest](#) The volume belongs to a Bolshevik series built to expose tsarist secret diplomacy, alongside "European Powers and Greece" (1922) and "Constantinople and the Straits" (1925–1926). [Djvu](#) Its documents come from the secret archive of the Imperial Russian Foreign Ministry, compiled in a leather folder inscribed by the vice-director of the MFA chancellery, N.A. Bazili. [djvu](#) Its own opening essay names Russia a partitioning power beside France and Britain: France

developed interests in Syria, Britain in Mesopotamia, "and finally, Russia attempts to do the same in Armenia and Kurdistan." [djvu](#) Its foreword states flatly that "Russia's claims were made the occasion and the basis" for the Western powers' claims in Ottoman Asia. The book Romachev brandishes to convict the West is a Russian government confession.

**Decontextualization and selective disclosure.** Romachev presents the WWI partition as a story with two villains, France and Britain, and one victim, Armenia. He deletes the third Allied partitioning power — Russia — from a scheme Russia helped author. The Constantinople Agreement of March 1915 promised Russia the imperial capital it had coveted since Catherine II. The Sazonov–Paléologue exchange of April 1916 promised Russia the Armenian

vilayets of Erzurum, Trebizond, Van, and Bitlis, in return for Russian assent to Sykes–Picot. [Runic Universe](#) Sykes and Georges-Picot carried their map to Sazonov in Petrograd. Russia sat at the table, pen in hand. Romachev shows the audience the French and British signatures and hides the Russian one on the same page.

**False historical analogy – "the picture repeats itself."** Romachev's payload is the closing line: "After centuries, the picture repeats itself!" The analogy equates 1916 France and Britain with 2026 France and the West, and invites Armenians to read present Western partners as the faithless powers of a century ago. The analogy collapses on contact with the record. The power that armed Armenia's enemy and ceded Armenian land by treaty was Bolshevik Russia, not the West. The repetition Romachev should fear, if he

cared about Armenian welfare, is Russian abandonment – 2020, 2023, and after.

**The central evisceration: Russia did to Armenia exactly what Romachev accuses the West of doing**

Accusation-in-a-mirror is the projection of one's own offense onto the adversary. Romachev's offense – Russia's offense – is documented in granular, treaty-by-treaty detail.

After the October Revolution, Trotsky published the secret treaties, including Sykes–Picot, in Izvestia and Pravda on 23 November 1917, an act the Bolsheviks staged to embarrass the Allies and to court Armenian and other subject opinion. The Constantinople Agreement was likewise made public by Izvestia in November 1917 to gain Armenian support for the revolution. The same

Bolshevik state then switched sides. Mustafa Kemal wrote Lenin on 26 April 1920 requesting gold and arms. Lenin's government delivered. Across 1920–1922, Soviet Russia supplied the Kemalists with roughly 39,000 rifles, 327 machine guns, 54 cannon, tens of millions of cartridges, and 200.6 kg of gold bullion, plus advisers including Frunze and Voroshilov. Soviet-made weapons armed the Turkish forces that crushed the Armenian republic in late 1920.

The treaties sealed the loss. The Treaty of Moscow of 16 March 1921, signed between Lenin's Russia and Kemal's Turkey, ceded the Kars and Ardahan regions and the Surmalu district – including Mount Ararat – to Turkey, and placed Nakhichevan under Azerbaijani protection on condition it never pass to Armenia. The Treaty of Kars of 13

October 1921 forced the Soviet Transcaucasian republics to ratify those terms. Stalin, then Commissar of Nationalities, lobbied against Armenian claims to keep the Russo-Turkish alliance intact; he wrote Lenin that the demand to clear Van, Muş, and Bitlis for Armenians "cannot be our demand." The Treaty of Sèvres of August 1920, which had promised a "Wilsonian Armenia," was rendered dead letter in the same window — killed in practice by the Kemalist-Bolshevik partnership, not by Paris or London.

So Romachev's charge sheet against the West — secret partition, broken promises, territory handed to Armenia's enemies — is a precise description of Russian conduct toward Armenia. He accuses the mirror.

**The kernel of truth he weaponizes**

A scrupulous teardown concedes what is real. France did abandon Armenians once. Under the Treaty of Ankara of 20 October 1921, negotiated by Henri Franklin-Bouillon, France evacuated Cilicia by late 1921, exposing Armenian communities who had returned under French protection to renewed Kemalist massacres at Marash, Aintab, and Adana. [RTH](#) France was the first Entente power to recognize Kemal's government. That grievance is genuine, and Armenians remember it.

Romachev's manipulation is to take a real 1921 French failure and smuggle it forward to 2026 as if French posture were unchanged – while suppressing two facts. First, Russia's parallel and larger betrayals, detailed above, in the same years. Second, the present, which inverts his analogy. France recognized the Armenian Genocide by law in 2001

under Chirac; Macron established 24 April as a national commemoration day in 2019; France hosts one of the largest Armenian diasporas. France signed €278.5 million in arms contracts with Armenia across 2023–2024 – €74.2 million in defense orders in 2023 and €204.3 million in 2024, per France's Defense Ministry report to parliament – including 36 Caesar 155mm self-propelled howitzers, three Thales GM200 radars, and 50 Bastion armored personnel carriers from Arquus, with Mistral missiles under negotiation; France opened its first permanent military mission in the South Caucasus in Yerevan. Present-day France arms Armenia. Present-day Russia armed Azerbaijan and stood aside.

**Cui bono – why this post, and why now**

The contemporary record explains the timing. Armenia froze its CSTO participation on 23 February 2024 and by December 2024 declared it had "crossed the point of no return"; by April 2026 it had halted all participation. Russian peacekeepers stood down during Azerbaijan's 19–20 September 2023 offensive, which forced more than 80 percent of Karabakh's roughly 120,000 inhabitants to flee. Per Armenian Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan, Russia's share of Armenia's weapons acquisitions fell from roughly 96 percent to less than 10 percent since January 2021, with Yerevan turning to France and India. Armenia's parliament voted in March 2025 to begin an EU-accession process.

Moscow's answer has been an information offensive. Documented Kremlin-aligned operations have flooded

Armenian audiences since early 2025. Between April 2025 and April 2026, Armenia was targeted by the Storm-1516 operation more often than any other country in the world, with 30-plus separate waves recorded, per the Institute for Strategic Dialogue; Germany's BND links Storm-1516 to Russian military intelligence and Konstantin Malofeev's networks. The parallel Matryoshka/Operation Overload network published 343 fake videos by early May 2026 – described by Euronews' The Cube as "one of the most extensive [operations] in recent years – second only to" Moldova's 2025 election. The narratives discredit Pashinyan, portray the West as a dangerous and faithless partner, and frame Russia as Armenia's only true historical friend, ahead of the 7 June 2026 parliamentary vote. Sergei Kiriyyenko, deputy chief of Russia's

presidential administration, has been tasked with reviving Russian influence in Armenia.

Romachev's post fits that template exactly: West-as-betrayer, Russia-as-erased-friend, history-as-weapon, timed to the pre-election window. Assessment: the post is deliberate influence work consistent with the documented Kremlin campaign. Given Romachev's FSB background and his professional specialism in information warfare, the alignment is very likely intentional rather than coincidental. Confidence is moderate on direct coordination – no evidence places this specific post inside a tasked operation – and high on the judgment that the post advances Kremlin messaging objectives.

## **The wedge**

Strip the history and one function remains: driving a wedge between Armenia and its current Western partners at the moment Armenia chooses them over Russia. Romachev offers Armenians a closed loop – the West always betrays, Russia alone remembers – at the precise moment the evidence runs the other way. The wedge is the point. History is the crowbar.

## **Recommendations**

- **Treat the post as a sourced case study, not noise.** The self-refuting citation is a teaching asset. Armenian fact-checkers and educators should publish the book's title page and foreword side by side with Romachev's claim. Threshold to escalate: republication or amplification of the same "Partition of

Asiatic Turkey" framing across other Kremlin-aligned channels, which would indicate a coordinated narrative push rather than a one-off.

- **Lead the rebuttal with Russia's own documents.** The strongest counter is not Western testimony but the 1924 Soviet NKID volume itself, the Moscow and Kars treaties, and Stalin's letter to Lenin. Use Russian-origin primary sources to pre-empt the "Western propaganda" deflection.
- **Pair the 1921 Cilicia concession with the 1921 Moscow/Kars cessions.** Concede the French failure openly, then place it beside the larger Russian betrayals of the identical year. Honesty about Cilicia inoculates the audience against the charge of one-sided messaging and strips Romachev of his kernel of truth.

- **Monitor the pre-election window.**  
Through the 7 June 2026 vote, expect intensification of history-as-weapon content. Benchmark to watch: synchronized reposting of Romachev-style historical-grievance posts across Armenian-facing channels, which marks the shift from individual commentary to operation.
- **Name the technique, not just the falsehood.** Audiences inoculate better against a method than against a single lie. Teach accusation-in-a-mirror, source laundering, and decontextualization as recognizable moves, so the next post fails on sight.

## **Caveats**

- No public evidence places Romachev's specific post inside a formally tasked Kremlin operation. The

assessment of intent rests on his FSB background, his professional specialism in information warfare, the post's exact fit with documented narratives, and the pre-election timing – strong circumstantial alignment, not a paper trail.

- The verbatim quotes from the 1924 Adamov volume's foreword and opening essay derive from a scanned full-text copy with pre-revolutionary orthography and OCR artifacts; the cited passages are legible and internally consistent, and the bibliographic facts are confirmed across the Russian State Library, the Russian National Electronic Library, and the Internet Archive.
- Figures for Soviet aid to the Kemalists vary slightly across sources (gold bullion is consistently cited at 200.6 kg, while lira and ruble totals differ);

the orders of magnitude and the direction of the aid are not in dispute.

- French arms-contract figures reflect signed contracts (€278.5 million for 2023–2024); actual delivered equipment by end-2024 was a smaller fraction – €20.8 million – with deliveries scheduled to continue.
- "The Partition of Asian Turkey," "The Partition of Asiatic Turkey," and "The Partition of Turkey in Asia" are rendering variants of the same 1924 title; the identification is secure.