
ARMENIA EDGES TOWARD BREACH WITH RUSSIA

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Armenia is on the verge of ditching membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Russia-led military and security grouping.

The decision has been threatened since 2020 when Azerbaijan decisively defeated Armenia in war. It worsened in September 2023 when the Azeris fully retook what remained of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Russia, Armenias ally, responded with shoulder-shrugging.

The scars left by Armenias sense of betrayal are widespread in Yerevan and the public mood is now deeply anti-Russian (the number of Armenians believing bilateral relations are bad has risen to 66% from 49%.) This realization was especially stinging for Armenia since it has allied with Moscow since the 1990s and its main purpose is to defend its member states security.

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