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## **PASHINYAN BASHES SOVIET UNION AMIDST ARMENIA'S TROUBLED RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA**

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In his speech on the occasion of Republic Day, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan criticised the Soviet Union, which took control of Armenia and brought the First Republic to an end in 1920.

Praising the role of the First Republic despite its short existence of less than three years, Pashinyan called its establishment truly [a] turning point in our thousand-year history. He emphasised that after being a stateless nation for four and a half centuries, its establishment turned Armenians into a state-forming people.

And for the first time in our history, a state system was outlined – a republic, where the people of Armenia are the ones who hold power and decide through elections who and how to govern the state, Pashinyan said.

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