

force in Asia, on both the large and small scale, has become customary - almost the norm.⁶³

By contrast, the situation in Europe for the first 30 years following the end of the Second World War, (that is until the time that CSBM's started to be worked out and implemented), was mostly stable despite the occasional inflation of accusatory polemics between the two blocs. At the same time, talks about some form of collective alleviation of tensions began soon after the end of the war and have practically never ceased. In some way this sustained the longstanding striving for a united Europe that for several ages has been the dream of many.

Another difference between the regions is that when the CSCE process was initiated, the countries of Europe had (temporarily at least) solved the territorial questions raised by World War II. They had reconciled themselves to existing boundaries which dissipated a great deal of insecurity and hence enhanced the willingness to be trusting and confident in ones neighbours. This was not the case with ASEAN. After twenty-five years the countries of ASEAN still have not hammered out the answers to many of their territorial questions. This chore remains complicated by the fact that many of the territorial disputes within ASEAN involve both member and non-member states.

To a large extent, this is due to another key difference between the regions. Unlike the nations of Europe, many of the boundaries of the ASEAN states are demarcated at sea and have been complicated by the Law of the Sea's provision for an Exclusive Economic Zone for maritime nations. Hence, most of the ASEAN nations share boundary disputes with each other as well as with external powers.

The fact that the nations of ASEAN are engaged in boundary disputes with external powers suggests another difference between the two regions. ASEAN can be described as a sub-regional organization and many of its security issues are broader in nature than the organization is itself. Its ability therefore, to provide a negotiating forum for confidence-building and arms control in the region may be constrained. Europe on the other hand, is a largely self-contained sub-continent. The United States and Canada are the only powers immediately relevant to European security issues which are not in the immediate region. However, both the US and Canada have been members of the CSCE from the outset along with the rest of the regional players. The current member states of ASEAN, however, feel that they would be swamped by the political clout of the great powers of the region (Japan, China and India) if they attempted to include them in the organization. For this

⁶³ Op Cit., Trofimenko, "The Security-Enhancing Role of Confidence -and Security-Building Measures", pg. 141-142.