era was truly unique. For over forty years, Europe was characterized by two opposing blocs whose security depended on the success of a policy of nuclear deterrence. The CSCE had to deal with one basic conflict and the presence of nuclear weapons created a common desire on both sides to avoid war at all costs. This particular situation created a desire for confidence-building and arms control which has been equalled in no other region of the world.

In South-East Asia on the other hand, there are no clear dividing lines between opposing blocs and there is definitely no commonality of interests as was created in Europe by the existence of nuclear weapons. Rather, South-East Asia has been characterized by varied patterns and dynamics of international relations. Different levels of social, political and economic development have created great disparities in interests in the countries of this region.[61]

In addition, due to their geographic positioning and the effects of colonialism, the ASEAN countries do not share a common history and culture as is shared in Europe.

> However much the ...CSCE states are divided on ideological, political, and socio-economic grounds, they still share a common culture of European diplomacy and a _lingua franca_ of arms control negotiations stretching back at least a century. ...There also is a long history in Europe of surprise attack ...which threatened to or did engulf the whole continent in war. This has created a defence culture concentrated on preparedness against surprise attack and which has therefore grasped the significance of confidence-building measures. Efforts to establish a European security regime go back as least as far as the Congress of Vienna in 1815.[62]

The recent histories of each region have also been very different. Since the Second World War there have been a number of violent conflicts (both internal and external) in South-East Asia. These conflicts have left a legacy of mistrust, anger, fear, passions, and national and racial divisions that often come into play and tremendously complicate the collective effort of confidence-building. Some scholars have stated that the use of

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[61] Op Cit., Trofimenko, "The Security-Enhancing Role of Confidence -and Security-Building Measures", pg. 141.

[62] Op Cit., Holik, "Underpinnings and Adaptability of European CSBM Concepts", pg. 24.