

approach based on the experience of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) case. This revised understanding stressed the notion of transformation, arguing that confidence building as a security management approach could only be truly effective when the perceptions of threat in neighbouring states were on the verge of fundamental positive change. The confidence building process appeared to be uniquely suited to animating and perhaps even initiating this process of fundamental change, hence its special value. Although it was always dangerous to infer too much from a single instance, the CSCE case provided a compelling illustration of what confidence building could accomplish.

The bulk of the paper was devoted to detailing this transformation view of confidence building and included the presentation of several generalized definitions (each one characterizing a distinctive aspect of the phenomenon), a typology of confidence building measures, and treatments of the security regime and epistemic community concepts that helped explain how confidence building functioned. Also prominent in the overview was a discussion of initial conditions that appeared to be necessary for confidence building to function successfully.

Having presented the basic features of the transformation view, the paper turned its attention to a variety of conceptual issues and problems, many of which suggested that efforts to use the confidence building approach in new contexts ought to be undertaken with some care. For instance, the CSCE-based understanding that explicitly or implicitly informed most people's basic idea of confidence building was potentially quite idiosyncratic. Did this mean that its lessons were non-portable? Despite these concerns, it seemed sensible to explore the potential of confidence building in new geographic and substantive areas using as generalized as possible an understanding of confidence building. In particular, this might be done by encouraging analysts from different security regions to develop a more sophisticated appreciation of confidence building sensitive to their own security contexts and problems but informed by the basic concepts seen in the CSCE case.

The possibilities for developing effective confidence building arrangements for the Korean peninsula were enticing, not least because of the general similarity in basic geostrategic circumstance between Korea and Central Europe. However, the lessons of the transformation view of confidence building suggested that great caution was in order unless a fundamental change in security conceptions and perceptions was near. There was nothing to suggest that this was the case today in Korea. The need to prepare for the departure of the Kim regime in the North, however, made the active exploration of confidence building a wise course to pursue, particularly if relatively less-doctrinaire North Korean officials could be involved.