

## George Pompidou and the French Policy Towards the CSCE, 1969-1974

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This article examines the French policy towards the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), paying special attention to President George Pompidou. The French government played an important role in the process leading up to the opening of the Conference. Pompidou's attitude to it, however, was negative from the outset. This paper, therefore, analyses the reasons why the French leader gradually and positively changed his opinion of the multilateral conference.

Another purpose of this article is to highlight the French contribution to the transformation of the CSCE from the procedural point of view. Such a procedural aspect has not been sufficiently focused on so far. Yet, in order to understand the success of the Conference for the West, the way of organising the CSCE was highly significant. And, the French idea of establishing a three-stage conference, which made the negotiations in the Conference much longer, contributed to making the CSCE fruitful and constructive. By exploring diplomacy within NATO and between East and West regarding this procedural problem from an international perspective, this paper demonstrates the process of transforming multilateral European détente in the early 1970s.