

von Tauroggen nicht unterschätzt werden, die Anfang 1813 schließlich zum Abschluss eines russisch-preußischen Bündnis führte. Immerhin hatte er es vermocht, während des Jahres 1812 enge Beziehungen zwischen Russland und Preußen aufrechtzuerhalten, als Berlin ins französische Lager übergewechselt war.

SUMMARY

*Count Christopher Henry von Lieven as
a Diplomat in Prussia (1810–1812)*

This article examines the work of a Russian diplomat of Baltic German origin, Count Christopher Henry von Lieven, who served as an ambassador to Prussia in 1810–1812. These were breakthrough years both in the Napoleonic Wars and in the context of Russian and Prussian history; thus, it is interesting to observe this Baltic German diplomat who played an important role in the Russian diplomatic service during the reign of Alexander I of Russia.

As of 1810, Napoleon had reached the peak of his influence in continental Europe. At the same time, Russia and Prussia realised that this situation could not last since the Continental Blockade, enforced by Napoleon, and war contributions continuously destroyed the economy of Prussia. Therefore, Russian and Prussian leaders were planning a new alliance against Napoleon, which required more well-advised and sensitive preparation than ever. Since Russian leader Alexander I and Frederick William III of Prussia held a close friendship, the czar sent his confrere Christopher Henry von Lieven as a Russian ambassador to Berlin. His task was to aid Prussia in the question of contributions and then create favourable ground for a Russian-Prussian union that would support the political standing of both countries. Other major topics during Lieven's term were the issue of the Duchy of Oldenburg occupied by the French, Prussian General Gerhard von Scharnhorst's secret missions to Saint Petersburg and Vienna, and forwarding military information to Saint Petersburg. The year of 1812 presented the possibility that in return for the union and in case of a successful Russian campaign, Napoleon may grant the Baltic Provinces to Prussia. Lieven had an important role in all of these topics, as he was communicating closely not only with Prussian statesmen, but also with King Frederick William III of Prussia himself, gaining a reputable position in the Prussian governing district.

Although the Russian-Prussian union was not immediately created as a result of Lieven's work, his role was imperative in light of the Convention

of Tauroggen and the new anti-Napoleon coalition of 1813, when the Prussians went over to the Russian side after Napoleon's Russian campaign had failed. Lieven's work largely ensured that Russian-Prussian relations did not weaken even during complicated political conditions.