**Question: Explain the Bakunin’s philosophy on anarchism**

**Answer**

**Michael Bakunin’s Philosophy of Anarchism:** He was regarded as the father of communist anarchism. Bakunin was a staunch supporter of revolutionary anarchism and his philosophy of anarchism may be discussed under the following points:

1. **Bakunin on aims of anarchism:** Bakunin believed that the foremost aim of anarchists was to educate the masses in a fashion that they begin to realize the evils of the present system of administration and to establish a classless and stateless society. Again, he asserted that the object of anarchists will not be achieved only by the abolition of state or private property, but by creating a new social order.

1. **Bakunin on liberty:** Bakunin’s theory of anarchism begins and ends with liberty. The central point of his thought was to free the individual from the yoke of capitalist in the economic sphere; from the yoke of state in the political sphere and from the priest in the religious sphere. He vehemently condemned every institution and belief which were found inconsistent with liberty.
2. **Bakunin on government:** Bakunin opposed all forms of government. According to him the government whether despotic or democratic is evil because its commands are destructive of human liberty. He regarded representative government is not a government of the wise and expert. It cannot represent all the people, but they represent themselves merely. Similarly, he condemned the democratic government as it could not eliminate private property. In democracy, the state manages and manipulates the exploitation of poor by those who are economically powerful. Therefore, Bakunin pleaded to abolish all forms of government.
3. **Bakunin on state:** Bakunin strongly condemned the existence of state. His opposition to state is based on his conviction is that it supports private property through its physical compulsion. In his book, ‘***God and State’*** condenm the state. He also writes, “the state is authority; it is force; it is the ostentation and infatuation of force”. So, he was convinced that the state must be ended and should be replaced by a free association of autonomous groups. These groups will combine together to form regional association and shall be converted into voluntary bodies to take care of the needs of our day-to-day life.
4. **Bakunin on private property:** Bakunin was deadly against the private property. He viewed private property was the sole cause of many evils and instrument of exploitation. He argued that private property and state are inextricably connected with one another and both extended their fullest cooperation to each other. It is through private property alone that millions toils for only a wealthy and make them still richer and hence it should be abolished.
5. **Bakunin on religion:** Being a revolutionary anarchist, Bakunin detested the very idea of God. According to him the idea of God must be vanished as the idea of God does not exists. The state always acted as the younger brother of church and the church supported the state against which the people had no right to rebel. Religion taught dependence and subjection and undermined the dignity of man. So it should be abolished.
6. **Bakunin on method of anarchism:** Regarding method, Bakunin adopted both evolutionary and revolutionary method. He was in favour of scientific and insurrectionary technique. He did not underestimate the importance of evolution which he felt was an essential step for the growth of man in the initial stage of development. Bakunin was convinced that since evolution was to take sufficiently long time before the present society could be transformed in to an anarchist society. So, he supported the revolutionary methods.
7. **Bakunin on anarchist society:** His society would remain the natural home for man. His society was called federalism, implying the spontaneous and voluntary formation of associations which shall take care of all the needs of the people. According to Bakunin, in anarchist society there will be no compulsion and shall be based on reason and wisdom.