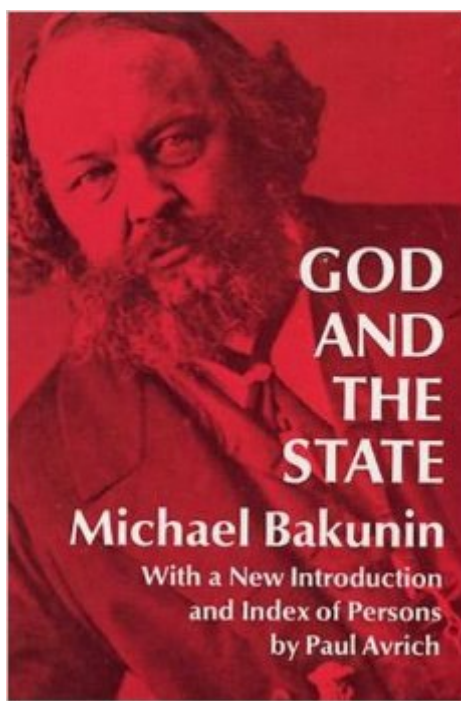


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God And The State



Synopsis

A founder of modern philosophical anarchism presents a clear introduction to anarchist thought and a manifesto of atheism. Bakunin offers a mind-opening experience for even the most skeptical readers. This influential work denounces religion as a weapon of the state that must be smashed in the pursuit of the right to self-determination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bakunin's political beliefs rejected governing systems in every name and shape, from the idea of God downwards; and every form of external authority, whether emanating from the will of a sovereign or from universal suffrage. He wrote in his *Dieu et l'Etat* or *God and the State* (published posthumously in 1882): "The liberty of man consists solely in this, that he obeys the laws of nature, because he has himself recognized them as such, and not because they have been imposed upon him externally by any foreign will whatsoever, human or divine, collective or individual." Natural laws being thus recognized by every man for himself, Bakunin's reasoning went, an individual could not but obey them, for they would be the laws also of his own nature; and the need for political organization, administration and legislation would at once disappear. Bakunin similarly rejected the notion of any privileged position or class, since "it is the peculiarity of privilege and of every privileged position to kill the intellect and heart of man. The privileged man, whether he be privileged politically or economically, is a man depraved in intellect and heart." Bakunin's methods of realizing his revolutionary program were no less purposeful than his principles. The revolutionist, as Bakunin

described, would be a devoted man, who allowed no private interests or feelings, and no scruples of religion, patriotism or morality, to turn him aside from his mission, the aim of which is by all available means to overturn the existing society.

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