What is consciousness? What does it mean to be aware of something, to be aware of our selves? To explain scientifically these questions and other aspects of mind is the ultimate goal of current brain research.

In this overview of what is now known about brain functioning, biophysicist Bernard Korzeniewski constructs a novel theory about how consciousness gradually emerged in the course of evolution from the few neurons of the cnidarian to the complex neural network of the human brain and how our self-consciousness gradually emerged within our cognitive center.

In the end, the author suggests that as more is learned about the working of the brain, philosophical problems that have caused centuries of speculation will simply be resolved by the facts of neurophysiology.

Rich in detail about the latest brain research yet accessible to the lay reader, this stimulating book offers much to ponder.

BERNARD KORZENIEWSKI is a professor of biophysics in the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Biotechnology at Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland. He is the author of five books in Polish on biological evolution; brain, mind, and consciousness; and related problems.