A History of Consciousness

Gary Lachman

Foreword by Colin Wilson

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A Secret History of Consciousness



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. Contents: Foreword by Colin Wilson Introduction: Consciousness Explained The Search for Cosmic Consciousness Esoteric Evolution The Archaeology of Awareness Participatory Epistemology The Presence of Origin Last Words: Playing for Time Determined Bibliography "A marvelously exhilarating gallop through every essential modern theory of consciousness, from Steiner to Maslow, from Bucke's 'cosmic awareness' to Gebser's 'integral awareness. Gary Lachman argues that view of consciousness can be misguided and unfounded. He points to another approach to the analysis and exploration of awareness that erupted into general public awareness in the late 1800s. A must-examine for those seeking an escape from our contemporary tradition's cul-de-sac. meaning isn't imported from the outer world, but instead creates it. In this look at, consciousness is a full time income, evolving presence whose advancement can be traced through different historical intervals, and which evolves along a way to a broader, more expansive state. Two little known but important thinkers play a major function in his synthesis? Jurij Moskvitin, who showed how our consciousness pertains to the mechanisms of perception and to the external globe, and Jean Gebser, who provided perhaps the most impressive case for the evolution of consciousness. Lachman specializes in the period since the past due 1800s, when Madame Blavatsky 1st brought the trick history out in to the open. As this background unfolds, we encounter the ideas of many modern thinkers, from esotericists like P. D. Ouspensky, Rudolf Steiner, and Colin Wilson to even more mainstream philosophers like Henri Bergson, William James, Owen Barfield and the psychologist Andreas Mavromatis. What that consciousness could be like and how it could be achieved is a significant concern of the book. An important contribution to the analysis of consciousness. For the last four centuries, research has tried to account for everything in terms of atoms and molecules and the physical laws they abide by.."?Daniel Pinchbeck, writer of Breaking Open the top "Thinking outside the box, Lachman challenges many modern theories by reinserting a feeling of the spiritual back to the discussion. Recently, this effort was extended to try to include the inner world of humans."?Colin Wilson, author of The Outsider and Access to Inner Worlds "Opens up vast vistas of possibility, suggesting that what we experience because the earth may, alone, be inseparable from our mind-set, and that the evolution of human consciousness could be as fundamental an activity as our advancement through genetics. In this "secret history of consciousness," consciousness is seen not as a result of neurons and molecules, but as responsible for them; a must-examine. Profoundly erudite, yet readable, this book can be a provocative mind-stretcher. Power. Physics, Alphabet versus the Goddess, and Sex, Period &"?Leonard Shlain author of Art &



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A Stimulating History Gary Lachman's *Key History of Consciousness* offers a deeply stimulating panoramic summary of heterodox thinkers about human awareness. Since developing his interest in these topics, Lachman offers transformed himself from a rocker right into a formidable author on the subject of human consciousness and culture. He seeks to give equal tone of voice to thinkers on the margin and well away from, in this case, the Dennett-led materialist mainstream look at of consciousness. I mentioned earlier, he's most likely the rightful successor to the past due Colin Wilson. By consciously inhabiting the liminal, twilit area between dream and waking, possibly the next level of awareness is achievable. For instance, I found myself in a full agreement in his rather dim view of much of contemporary visual artwork. Standout sections include discussions of Schwaller de Lubicz's idea of the Symbolique, Andreas Mavromatis's idea of "hypnagogia", and Jurij Moskvitin's criminally unfamiliar *Essay on the Origin of Thought*. These last two thinkers propose probably the most radical idea in the reserve: Our ordinary waking state is effectively similar to the dream condition. It starts with the work of Richard Bucke, whose pioneering but naïvely agathistic *Cosmic Consciousness* was among the first books in English explicitly outside a specific religious tradition to explore both the theme of awareness and the idea that it is capable of growth. If this last idea sounds a little familiar, then perhaps because it is also connected with a radical intellectual and artistic trend that is as badly understood as many of the thinkers discussed here: the Surrealist movement. Lachman instead follows Owen Barfield's timorous evaluation of the Surrealists as unleashing "harmful" forces, because, golly, it sure would be frightening and evil if most of us started actually viewing melting watches! Lachman's refusal to own Surrealists a location in his parade is definitely a substantial flaw in this otherwise excellent book. Very thought provoking. In addition, Alfred North Whitehead, although not receiving a full individual treatment, receives consideration. Pace Barfield and Lachman, however, the Surrealists never expressed an "anything goes" look at of unconscious expression and automatism. An excellent book for deep thinkers One of the most intellectually stimulating and provocative books I've read in the past 20 years. For the time being, intelligent research of the Surrealists and their regards to other heterodox actions of thought can be found, for those who are interested (start to see the feedback section). But through the entire book, Lachman displays a wonderfully practical good sense and openmindedness. The book concludes somewhat feebly with an overlong debate of the ideas of the much-overrated MODERN thinker Jean Gebser, a slightly disappointing conclusion to what had been otherwise a remarkable intellectual tour. He was brought up as a Catholic, although he walked from the Church as a teenager. The reason being, whatever its shortcomings may be from my perspective, there is truly something here for everyone who takes the subject of consciousness significantly and with an open mind.G. Lachman's amazing study stimulates thought and original reflection, and is (mainly) even handed. I turn to parts of it over and over as a way to obtain reflection, inspiration, and problem. From me, there can be no higher praise. Addendum: I will mention that Lindisfarne has done a less-than-professional job in the creation of this book. In addition to those I've already mentioned, Lachman reports at length on the work of Owen Barfield and Jean Gebser. This isn't bookmaking at its cheapest, but it's close. Similarly, Rudolf Steiner was, among other activities, a Goethe scholar and a scientist, but he, as well, promoted a theory of planetary influences and the living of spiritual beings and records. This look at of the Surrealists is normally superficial and uninformed, and I expect far better from a writer and thinker of Lachman's caliber. I highly recommend this book for anyone who has questions and concerns about rational materialism - the fashionable notion

that if you can't observe, hear, taste, touch or smell it (or detect it with a scientific instrument of some sort), it can not be actual. Lachman raises some exciting questions about the nature of consciousness and how it may have evolved by stages throughout history, as evidenced, first and foremost, in the development of human language. This is a fantastic publication for deep thinkers and people who still believe in the energy of imagination. Excellent Book & For example, Gurdjieff (whom I've examine a little bit of and about) can sometimes appear deeply insightful. I as a result appreciate Lachman's concise and lucid exposition of Barfield's main suggestions. The (No Longer) Secret History of Consciousness I love reading Gary Lachman. There are many reasons that I believe explain this, that have been buried by "status quo" "scientists.In all, however, I cannot recommend this book highly more than enough. Finally, despite an extremely successful profession as a Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame member of the band Blondie, he became thinking about spiritual, esoteric, and metaphysical writings. Finally, following a lucky search at a utilized bookstore in Berkley when I got some extra time there, I, as well, discovered Colin Wilson (Religious beliefs and The Rebel), whom Lachman admires. Like Greil Marcus's *Lipstick Traces*, Lachman also offers a subterranean watch of his subject matter, a panorama using X-rays. I believe that he wears the mantel of successor to Colin Wilson, with whom he created a friendship and from whom he received a forwards to his publication, A Secret Background of Awareness. In this function, Lachman details the history of mystical, esoteric, and occult thought right from the start of the 20th-century up to the near present. Not absolutely all of it the statistics he discusses are by any means fringe. Early in the publication, he addresses the works of Henri Bergson and William James, to name the most prominent philosophers in France and the US respectively at the start of the 20th century. In his following breath, trying to eat his cake and have it, too, Lachman denigrates the Surrealists as mere poseurs. Many alternatives to Darwinism, etc. Lachman's book is an exploration of the theory that the psycho-history of sentient organisms also undergoes a similar process of "psychic recapitulation. Furthermore, Lachman examines the work of varied psychologists and lesser-known philosophers who explore the farther gets to of the human mind and the even more speculative aspects of reality. In other words, the bio-development of the organism recapitulates over a shorter time scale the longer time scale development of the biodevelopmental history of the organisms ancestors. The facts? And so how exactly does it relate with matter? Possibly the biggest distinction between those thinkers that Lachman discusses and the ones who are considered even more mainstream is normally that Lachman's group maintains that awareness receives primacy over matter. Among the difficulties in addressing a topic of this sort is to distinguish what appears to be delusional, fantastic, or absurd and what is deeply insightful. a Lot of Fun Great mind-blowing fun. On the other hand, he includes a theory of planetary influences that leaves me and many others baffled, if not really disdainful. My hope is usually that another publisher will one day reissue the publication and appropriate these flaws. Whether to examine these reports as the rantings of a madman or the symbols of the deeply innovative artist, is definitely hard to discern. I really do realize I am open to the accusation of complaining that Lachman wrote the book that he wanted to write, rather than the one that I needed to read, but I stand by the point that Lachman's off-handed dismissal of the Surrealists is normally unwarranted. In this work, Lachman serves as an accurate instruction and reporter, and he sets aside a few of these perplexing issues to report on what's most essential in these thinkers. Gross typographical mistakes appear ("Anthrosphere" for "Anthroposphere", for example), and there is no index. I'm currently reading and considering a lot about Barfield's work in and how it relates to

(somewhat) more mainstream thinkers like philosopher R. *A Secret History of Consciousness* is entertainingly written, nonetheless it under no circumstances dumbs down its subject matter. Colllingwood and historian John Lukacs. Read this first and Lachman's "Secret Teachers of the Western World" for a genuine head-switch and education. Gebser is another project, but I know already that he has received accolades from famous brands William Irwin Thompson and Ken Wilber (as Lachman mentions). Both these thinkers have integrated Gebser's insights into their groundbreaking works. Once again, Lachman acts as a trusted reporter on what is to become mined and valued in these works. Lachman explores these thinkers while a man on a mission, wanting to develop his intuition that human being awareness is of the best importance in the universe and that we have to better understand it and use it for the benefit of all creation. Again, I keep coming back how impressed I am along with his down-to-earth attitude in addressing these frequently ethereal topics. He doesn't go very easily of for trendiness. Shifting deftly from a discussion of William James's reflections and experiments, many of which were influenced by James's correspondent Benjamin Paul Blood (who maybe deserves a portion of his very own), to Madame Blavatsky, who rates rather less space here, and Rudolf Steiner, Lachman proceeds into even deeper and more interesting waters. He also recognizes where people are likely to get hung up when delving into these thinkers. Lachman's reserve is principally chronological. Lachman devotes a few chapters in his publication to Wilson's intellectual projects. Wilson was a chronicler of the fringe of acceptable thought and of bizarre (and often evil) individual behavior, but he also created theories and a philosophy that provided shape to these fringe suggestions and events, which Lachman appreciates. In lots of ways, Lachman's works further that enterprise. I valued the cross-reference of the tips of Gebser, Steiner, among others. It provided a obvious and logical description of the stages before the essential stage, but seemed even more ambiguous in describing what the essential stage is. A helpful overview An enlightening perspective in the evolution of awareness. The Evolution of Experience Darwinian Evolution supposedly tells all of us that over huge stretches of time, some organisms have increased in physiological complexity from simple cell organism to multi-cell organisms, with complex of multi-celled organisms evolving to work symbiotically as unified life-systems. Darwinian Development says that this process has taken millions upon millions of years. THE IDEA of Recapitulation says that 'ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny.' Theory of Recapitulation contends that the advancement of the embryo of an organism goes through the successive stages of representing the remote control background of the organism's ancestor. The normal thread running through Lachman's work is his nervous about consciousness. Among these personas are Gurdjieff, Ouspensky, Rudolf Steiner, Owen Barfield, and Jean Gebser, to name probably the most prominent." A Great Resource to have This is a fantastic analysis and review of resources! Great Read Great Colin Wilson Follow-up. But he mostly addresses those individuals who stick to the fringe of accepted intellectual discourse and that provide probably the most interesting and perplexing good examples. First, were born just a few years apart so we was raised in the same general cultural milieu of america in the 60's and 70's, although he was raised in New Jersey as opposed my more culturally conservative smalltown Iowa." Well researched but not academically stilted. Five Stars No comments. Some science behind New Thought Very well organized provided the breadth of the topic matter. What would the Inklings believe!



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