
THE SOCIETY OF MIND

MARVIN MINSKY

How does the mind work? Marvin Minsky — co-founder of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at M.I.T. — offers a revolutionary answer to that age-old question in *The Society of Mind*. To Minsky, the mind is a “society” of ever-smaller agents, themselves mindless. Mirroring this theory, the book has a bold and original format: it is an intellectual puzzle that the reader assembles. Each chapter, a self-contained page, is a single piece of the puzzle, and a unified theory of mind emerges like a mosaic. *The Society of Mind* will fascinate everyone interested in the mystery of thought.

— from the publisher

“Some of the best parts of Minsky’s book are the paradoxes he alludes to in thinking about thought. ‘Isn’t it amazing that we can think, not knowing what it means to think?’ Minsky asks. ‘Isn’t it remarkable that we can get ideas, yet not explain what ideas are?’ On the other hand, though, it’s not so amazing that we can drive cars without knowing how an internal combustion engine works.”

— Lee Dembart,
The Los Angeles Times

“Here, the M.I.T. professor and doyen of artificial intelligence lays out for popular consumption his grand scheme for modeling mental activities. A fascinating, not-easy book by one of the cleverest brains turned upon itself.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

“Minsky’s creative terminology for freshly perceived mental processes is a major contribution to the future of mind-science.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

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