Sputnik: The Shock of the Century

By Dickson, Paul


Summary: "An ominous foreign presence suddenly seems to take control of the skies!'Another Pearl Harbor!' some shout. Initial fears are replaced by a determination to meet the challenge, and America declares that life has changed forever. Sounds familiar, but the transforming event of Paul Dickson's book is not the crash of hijacked airliners last 9/11; it is the Soviet Union's launch in October 1957 of Sputnik, the first man-made satellite."-WashingtonPost

"Sputnik is a fascinating slice of useful social history. A serious book that is breezily written, Sputnik reviews the scientific history, the Cold War mentality and a media-driven crisis over what headline writers called 'the Red Moon'."-USAToday

"Dickson examines the impact of Sputnik from all angles, noting the hysteria it incited, minutely detailing the advances both in science and PR of the Soviet and U.S. space programs, and delivering an appendix explaining the satellite's influence on the English language. "Entertainment Weekly" [Dickson's] research is painstaking, his attention to detail exemplary. . .it flows smoothly and clearly - an admirable quality in history."-PhiladelphiaInquirer

"How ironic that the Earth's first artificial satellite launched a sea of change in technology, politics,..."

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