Scientists of a certain age vividly remember the impact of the launch of Sputnik when it dominated the news and how it affected their scientific education and careers. Wang (history, California State Polytechnic Univ.) documents a lesser known but even more important impact of Sputnik on the interaction between US government policies and science (and technology). "Public Science" is tracked from its beginnings in 1863 through the current day. WW II and the Manhattan Project greatly heightened the interaction. The saga continues with the advent of the Cold War, spawning predecessor organizations, and undergoes another sea change with the formation of the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) in 1957, post-Sputnik. The bulk of the book chronicles PSAC and its members until its 1973 demise under Nixon. An epilogue and conclusion regarding the current and future state of affairs between government and science put these experiences into focus. The work's descriptions of the efforts of PSAC scientists are especially important to their former students. Valuable for students and teachers in the sciences, government, and history. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All readers/libraries. -- R. E. Buntrock, formerly, University of Maine