

In 1918, Maryland became the first state to adopt the Executive Budget System now so widely used. In the years which followed, the State Legislature showed an increasing consciousness of the welfare of its citizens, enacting legislation to create old age and mothers' pensions, to aid dependent children and to give assistance to the needy blind.

World War II

About 250,000 Marylanders were enrolled in the several military services during World War II. More than ever before, the State's industrial power—that devoted to the building of ships and aircraft—fought "the Battle of Materials." The Army enlarged and rebuilt Fort Meade, and constructed Andrews Air Force Base near Camp Springs in Prince George's County. At Port Deposit, the Navy built an extensive training center called Bainbridge, and the Naval Air Station on the Patuxent River at Cedar Point to serve as an aviation testing facility easily accessible to Washington.

The 29th Infantry Division again served with distinction in France during 1944 and 1945. It fought on the Omaha Beachhead, in Normandy, against the Siegfried Line, and in the advance to the Elbe River. Medical units from the Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Hospitals performed outstanding service in many theaters of operations. The Federal government also built "Shangri-La" as a presidential retreat in Western Maryland. Here during World War II President Roosevelt received many of the leading statesmen of the allied forces, among them Winston Churchill. Renamed "Camp David" by President Eisenhower, the lodge became in 1959 the focus of world-wide attention as the scene of the meetings between the President and the Soviet Council Chairman, Nikita Khrushchev.

After World War II

The prosperity and population growth that accompanied the post-war economic boom have not been unmixed blessings. The thousands of dwelling units erected since 1945 have provided many families better housing than ever before, but they have also created problems of water supply and sewage disposal. Increased industrial production, improved farming techniques, the growing use of atomic energy for non-military purposes and other factors have raised the standard of living, but have brought with them such environmental problems as air pollution, water pollution, radiation exposure and the health hazards caused by