

cultural ties with the Confederacy led to a socio-political turmoil in Maryland not experienced elsewhere in the nation. After the Civil War, with its official status as a "loyal" state, Maryland embarked upon a "self-reconstruction" in politics and race relations far different from other slave states. The editor of a leading work on the post-Civil War border states notes in his introduction that, ". . .reactionary racial policies were not as systematically utilized in this state (Maryland) as they were in the other border states during the 1870s and 1880s" while "violence and intimidation against Negro voters" increased in Maryland in the 1890s at a time that it was subsiding in the other border states.¹² This reversal of form may be attributable to the closeness of the vote between the Democrats and the Republicans which exceeded 10 percent only once in the six presidential elections from 1872 through 1892 and which posed an increasing threat, because of the black voter, to Democratic dominance of statewide elective offices.¹³

During the Progressive Era of national politics Maryland did share partially in the reform experience. However, the opponents to reform controlled the state legislature sufficiently to enact complicated and discriminatory election laws which contributed to Maryland's split electoral votes in the presidential elections of 1904 and 1908. The banner of States' Rights was successfully waved by Maryland politicians during much of the first half of the twentieth century. Maryland was noticeable in its rejection, and subsequent lack of enforcement, of the Prohibition Amendment (18th) and Woman's Suffrage Amendment (19th) to the United States Constitution. Although Roosevelt's New Deal may have persuaded the general public and voters in Maryland, the state Democratic leadership, led by Governor Ritchie and Senator Millard Tydings, fought pitched battles against the President and his progressive policies. In the most recent decades, the strong presidential primary candidacies of Alabama Governor George C. Wallace in 1964 and 1972 appear philosophically inconsistent with the Democratic presidential victories of Kennedy, Humphrey and Carter in the general elections surrounding those years.

In summary, the political forces in Maryland often run counter to national trends, whether the trends be between political parties or within the parties themselves. This internal political pressure makes Maryland a most difficult state to compare with other states.

Diversity Within Maryland

As described in Chapter I, Maryland is comprised of 24 political subdivisions which have strong individual characteristics and which have a rich diversity in their respective political histories. Each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City has its own story with respect to presidential elections the full depth of which is not contained in this volume. The statistics and information compiled in this publication can be compared with other books, articles and newspapers relevant to each of the subdivisions to achieve a more complete perspective of each county's political heritage.¹⁴ Therefore, it is not only inappropriate to affix a single label on the Maryland performance over the course of presidential elections but it is also misleading to consider or portray the State as possessing a singular or unified voice.