

Name _____

The Eric Robert Rudolph Bombing Spree

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Eric Robert Rudolph's upbringing and family played a significant role in shaping his extremist beliefs. His family adhered to Christian Identity, an ideology that promoted white supremacy and anti-government sentiments. Growing up in this environment exposed Rudolph to radical ideas from a young age, contributing to his eventual radicalization.
2. The impact of Rudolph's first major bombing in Centennial Olympic Park during the Summer Olympics was significant. The bombing disrupted the event and cast a dark shadow over the celebration. It led to heightened security measures at the Olympics and raised concerns about safety. The incident had a lasting impact on the public's perception of large-scale events and security.
3. Rudolph targeted abortion clinics and a gay nightclub because of his extreme beliefs and ideologies. He viewed abortion as a sin and homosexuality as morally wrong. His actions were driven by his desire to protest against what he perceived as moral and political injustices. He believed that committing acts of domestic terrorism was a way to advance his extremist agenda.
4. Eric Robert Rudolph's capture was the result of a routine traffic stop that led to the discovery of bomb-making materials in his vehicle. Authorities were able to connect him to the bombings based on this evidence. Rudolph eventually confessed to his crimes, possibly due to the overwhelming evidence against him and the desire to avoid a lengthy trial.

