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English 3A

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OKLAHOMA CITY FEDERAL BUILDING BOMBING (FINAL)

Terrorism is one of the many severe threats to the safety of any population; it is a threat that refuses to leave the lives of Americans. According to the *Almanac of Modern Terrorism*, terrorism is defined as "unlawful use or threat of violence intended to intimidate or coerce a government, individuals, or groups to modify their behavior or policies" (263). It also involves violence towards the people who interfere with the terrorist organization's objectives. Although terrorism destroys everything it touches, there are still those who deem it necessary to spread terrorism through committing crimes and even murders. One such horrifying example of terrorism is the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It is considered the "deadliest act of terrorism within the United States prior to the events of September 11, 2001" (Kearns 67). The underlying causes of the bombing, the actual event itself, and its effects still frighten many people and leave them in suspense of another attack. The bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building was an intense act of terrorism that destroyed many lives and left the American people in shock.

The bombing was caused by a small group of men intent on harming the government. Once it was known that the horrid deed was perpetrated by Americans, the public was shocked because they first suspected foreign terrorist organization, and had no idea that the terrorists were living among them. Timothy McVeigh, the mastermind, and two other men, Michael Fortier and Terry Nichols, were involved in the bombing plot. In Douglas Linder's biography of

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