Trade Barriers

Economics

The tools that restrict trade, and who bears their cost.

Barrier and effect.

Barrier	How	Main cost falls on
Tariff	Tax on imports	Domestic consumers
Quota	Limit on quantity	Consumers, via higher prices
Subsidy	Support for domestic producers	Taxpayers
Standards	Technical requirements	Foreign producers, sometimes legitimately
Currency management	Cheaper exports	Domestic consumers' purchasing power

Protection concentrates benefits on a visible industry and spreads costs thinly across all consumers — which is why it persists.