

Export Controls in Asia

Take just about any trade fight today, and President Donald Trump's America is at the centre of it. But a **brawl** now under way in Asia, between Japan and South Korea, has the potential to be as damaging as much of what Mr Trump has **stirred** up.

brawl 喧闹; 斗殴

stir 搅拌; 搅动

Tensions between Japan and South Korea go back centuries. Japan's **colonization** of Korea between 1910 and 1945 is still **resented**. Japan believes a 1965 agreement resolved claims by South Korea over forced labour. It is **incensed** that South Korea's supreme court last year ordered Japanese firms to **compensate** victims. Amid a widening rift, Japan took its most serious action on July 4th when it began restricting exports to South Korea of three specialized chemicals used to make semiconductors and smartphones.

colonization 殖民

resent 愤恨; 怨恨

incensed 愤怒的; 激怒了的

compensate 补偿

The stakes are high. Japan **accounts for** as much as 90% of global production of these chemicals. They are needed to make memory chips, which are essential to all sorts of electronic devices. And South Korean firms are the world's dominant manufacturers of memory chips. If Japan were to **choke off** exports, the pain would ripple through global tech supply chains.

account for 占比; 负责; 解释

choke off 切断; 阻止

It is not too late to **defuse** the situation. The two countries will discuss their disagreement at the World Trade Organisation later this month. This is shaping up to be a test of whether the global trading system can, despite great strains, still **soothe** tensions—or whether it is being **supplanted** by a new, meaner order, in which supply chains are weaponized and commerce is purely an extension of politics.

defuse 平息

soothe 安慰; 缓和

supplant 代替; 排挤掉