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Michel Foucault is a thinker who has a body of work that is drawn upon by several disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. One key concept in his work is that of governmentality. However, when a concept is used across disciplines, ambiguity can develop in terms of what, precisely, the concept actually means. In this dissertation, I approach governmentality from the perspective of the discipline of philosophy by investigating some of the philosophical sources from which Foucault's thought on this matter drew. In particular, I examine aspects of the thought of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke, calling on both historical and contemporary sources of information. The result is a clarified sense of governmentality, at least in regard to its philosophical usage, and a suggestion of further research into the similarities and dissimilarities between Foucault and Camus related to this area.